





# IDF soldier hurt in Lebanon

Jerusalem Post Staff  
and news agencies

Artillery exchanges took place in southern Lebanon last night between the IDF and SLA and Hizbullah, after an IDF soldier was lightly wounded and a Lebanese man was killed in a Hizbullah roadside bomb attack. The IDF Spokesman said the army was investigating whether the IDF soldier was wounded by Hizbullah fire, or mistakenly fired upon by a fellow soldier while on patrol along the border fence with Lebanon last night. The soldier, who was wounded in the shoulder, was taken by ambulance to the hospital in Nahariya.

According to initial reports, the shooting occurred in the early evening, when a soldier on patrol detected suspicious movement and opened fire, and then realized he had struck a fellow soldier on another patrol.

But Hizbullah later issued a statement saying it had wounded an Israeli soldier in an attack. Earlier in the day, a roadside bomb apparently planted by Hizbullah killed a truck driver in southern Lebanon yesterday.

Hizbullah said it attacked an Israeli patrol in south Lebanon shortly after SLA sources said shells hit one of its outposts.

Israeli officials again issued messages in an attempt to calm the situation.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said Israel does not want to widen its actions in Lebanon.

"I don't want to take any action in Lebanon that would destroy understandings reached and amount to an adventure. I favor only actions that have the defined goal of striking at Hizbullah and giving security to northern settlements," he told reporters in the north.

Hours after the blast in Jezzine, IDF artillery fired shells at suspected Hizbullah positions in mountains in the south of the Bekaa Valley, SLA sources said.

The IDF Spokesman denied the report.

Hizbullah said its men fired machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades at IDF forces in the western sector of the security zone.

The blast occurred a day after the IAF launched its biggest attack on Lebanon in 16 months and raised the death toll of this week's attacks to at least 10 Lebanese civilians.

A similar incident on Monday sparked three days of violence, including shelling of the port city of Sidon by SLA militiamen that killed six people and

Hizbullah rocket barrages on northern Israel.

There were fears of more reprisals and counterattacks after yesterday's roadside bomb that killed the truck driver on a road near Jezzine - a Christian mountain town, 40 kilometers south-east of Beirut.

Since the eruption of violence on Monday, hundreds of residents in Hizbullah-controlled territory have headed north to safer areas.

This month's violence between Israel and Hizbullah has claimed a total of 25 lives in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and injured three in Israel.

Yesterday's bombing came a day after IAF jets raided deep inside Lebanon, targeting a Hizbullah base in eastern Lebanon, an electricity pylon in the center and a Lebanese army artillery battery in the south. Four Lebanese were injured.

The violence has threatened to undermine a US-brokered agreement reached in April 1996 to spare civilians.

The monitoring committee - made up of representatives from the United States, France, Lebanon, Israel and Syria - continued meeting yesterday to hear complaints from Israel and Lebanon about this week's fighting.



Palestinian police hold back demonstrating medical workers as they try to march on the Erez checkpoint yesterday. (Reuters)

## PA pursues dialogue with Hamas

By JON IMMANUEL

The Palestinian Authority pursued its dialogue yesterday with Hamas in Ramallah, and chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat stressed that the talks were aimed at forging greater Palestinian unity.

"I can't understand what [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu is worried about," Erekat said. "We are a society which believes in democracy and pluralism. We will not allow Hamas to form an alternative society."

While Israel criticized Arafat for not arresting Hamas militants, they noted that Abdul-Aziz Rantisi, embraced by Arafat at the opening conference in Gaza on Wednesday, was released from an Israeli jail this year.

Erekat alleged that "Netanyahu has brought relations between the Israeli and Palestinian people to their worst point since the beginning of the peace process."

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, chief adviser to PA head Yasser Arafat, said the conference wasn't

being held to appease Hamas but to assert PLO domination. He stressed that the PLO was leading the meeting and that "our strategic choice is peace."

He explained Arafat's "all options are open" remark at the opening session Wednesday as meaning that "if Israel is not interested in peace it will push Palestinians to reconsider things." Still, Abu Rudeineh asserted it would be more difficult for the PLO to renege on the 1993 peace deal than for Israel.

Regarding the boycott of Israeli goods declared this week, a measure which Hamas has long supported, Abu Rudeineh said it was in retaliation for the three-week-old closure and that the boycott would end when the closure does.

"If they are not letting workers in we have a right to stop goods," he said.

Some Israeli trucks were turned back at the Karni checkpoint in Gaza on Monday. Palestinian inspectors have warned merchants to buy no more Israeli goods after they sell

their present stock. Announcements have appeared in the press urging consumers to buy local goods.

Israel could lose millions of dollars a day in exports to the West Bank and Gaza, but would also have the ability to retaliate by preventing the Palestinians from exporting their produce or importing goods from elsewhere.

Several delegates from Gaza who tried to travel to Ramallah were turned back at the Erez checkpoint, including Kamal Sharaf, head of the legislative council's committee investigating PA corruption.

Imad Falouji, a former Hamas militant who is now communications minister, was allowed through.

In Gaza, doctors and nurses, joined by Islamic activists, marched towards Erez checkpoint from Shifa Hospital in Gaza City to protest deteriorating health conditions, including vaccine shortages for children.

Israeli security sources denied that any medicines were being kept from reaching Gaza.

## Israel, US examine Arrow failure

By STEVE RODAN

Israeli and US teams worked furiously throughout yesterday to examine data on Wednesday's failed Arrow 2 missile test in an attempt to limit any delay in the anti-missile defense program and Israeli plans to deploy the system next year.

Israeli officials said they are attempting to combine the tasks of the failed test with those of the forthcoming test planned for early 1998 to save time and meet their deadline for Arrow deployment by the end of 1998. The next test is meant to be the last of a series of six tests before the Arrow is to be deployed here.

Israel has tried to speed up development of the Arrow in an attempt to advance its deployment, prompted by the intense development and production of ballistic missiles in Syria and Iran. Israel and the US have also cooperated on other anti-missile defense programs to complement the Arrow system.

Defense sources said the malfunction in the Arrow 2 was not the result of a system-wide failure. Instead,

they said, it appears to have been the result of a wire attached to several systems in the missile that short-circuited. The mishap caused the Arrow to spin out of control and prompted an order to destroy the missile seconds after its launch.

"We tested all the systems and all worked well," a defense source said. "We know there is nothing wrong with the conception or the systems in the Arrow."

Pam Rogers, a spokesman for the US Ballistics Missile Defense Organization in Huntsville, Alabama, said Israeli and US teams would continue to examine the results of the tests before deciding on the next launch.

"It's too soon to tell," Rogers said. "They have to go over the results and see what it means for the next launch."

The failed launch cost the Arrow program \$10 million, defense sources said. But the sources maintained that the failure did not erase the previous successes of Arrow 2.

the entire Likud apparatus and brought in his henchmen to run things," a senior Histadrut source said.

"The timing couldn't be worse. Just when the nation's workers are

gearing up for the fight of their lives against the government, Barak is perceived to be on the wrong side. How will the public have faith in him if he himself fires workers?"

### DISMISS

Continued from Page 1

"Already he's being compared to Benjamin Netanyahu, who axed

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**J. POLLARD** 4/31/6  
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### CORRECTION

Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice-chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations,

said, "No persons known to support terrorists were invited to the White House," and not as reported yesterday.

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## Peace Now alleges new settlement being planned

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Peace Now yesterday urged the government to halt alleged plans to turn a Nahal outpost next to Ma'aleh Adumim into a settlement.

"We have received information that next week 30 caravans will be taken to the site," of the Eilat outpost, which is a branch of the Tourist College in Ma'aleh Adumim, Peace Now spokeswoman Hagit Ya'ari said.

She said that the local Megilot Regional Council also had plans

to turn the outpost into a holiday village and then a community settlement.

Avi Benayahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's media coordinator, denied there are plans to turn Eilat into a holiday village.

He said the ministry also hasn't approved or received any requests for trailers to be moved to the site.

Ya'ari said Peace Now would petition the High Court against any attempts to populate the outpost.

### Winning Cards and Numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the first winning cards were the king of spades, queen of hearts, 7 of diamonds, and ace of clubs, and in the second draw were 8 of spades, king of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

In yesterday's weekly Paysa Hazak drawing, ticket number 711952 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 313521 won the car.

Tickets 094771, 783605, 377696, 462536, 857955, 064386, 217478 and 545600 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 12728, 15323, 97505, 75366, 54639, 02086, 61943, 46345, 34976, 51974, 62095, 06101, 09215, 59352, 42106, 19822, 15342, 76704 and 46609 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 885, 649, 788 and 047 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 63, 92, 58 and 33 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 27 and 31 won NIS 20. And tickets ending in 3 or 6 won NIS 10.

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# Israel, Croatia establish ties

Jerusalem Post Staff

After holding secret talks in Budapest, Israel and Croatia announced yesterday the establishment of diplomatic ties.

In its statement, Croatia apologized "for crimes committed against the Jewish people during the Nazi period" and by the

Croatian regime at that time.

"Fascism, racial hatred, xenophobia and antisemitism are abhorrent and are condemned by the democratic government and people of the Republic of Croatia," added the statement signed by Hrvoje Sarinac, head of the Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia.

Israel was represented by Eitan Bentsur, the Foreign Ministry's director-general.

He expressed "great interest" in Croatia's achievement of independence in addition to "the importance which the people of Croatia today attach to values of freedom and democracy."

Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman also plans a visit to Israel to apologize personally for crimes perpetrated by some of his people during the Holocaust, the Foreign Ministry said.

Several months back Israel was cool to Zagreb's feelers for forging ties after Tudjman published a book called *Horrors of War* which

contained quotes deemed antisemitic.

A revised edition has been published omitting the offensive passages, Croatia's statement said.

Tudjman has expressed interest in building close cooperation with Israel in the fields of defense and industry.



US Congressman Benjamin Gilman, Chairman of the House International Affairs Committee, walks through Mahaneh Yehuda with Tsafi Adorian, whose husband Eli was killed in last month's bombing, prior to yesterday's memorial ceremony. (Brian Hendler)

## US group holds Mahaneh Yehuda memorial ceremony

By JAY BUSHENSKY

A memorial ceremony yesterday at the site of last month's Mahaneh Yehuda suicide bombing inspired a fervent demand from Rep. Benjamin Gilman that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat declare war on terrorism.

The chairman of the House International Affairs Committee said that there can be no peace process without a "core commitment" by Arafat to security and non-violence.

"We came together to memorialize the 14 innocent people—youth and old, men and women—who were engaged in everyday activities," Gilman said. "The suicide bombers were intent on killing Jews and Israelis and in destroying the peace process."

At his side were US Ambassador Martin Indyk and Mayor Ehud Olmert. The audience was comprised of a Congressional delegation as well as members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations headed by its executive vice chairman, Malcolm Hoenlein, as well as shoppers and vendors.

Gilman said it was ironic that "these terrifying explosions, so heinous in their destruction," took place at the street name for the tree of life—Rehov Etz Ha'Chaim.

Indyk said the Mahaneh Yehuda

market represents life in Israel, adding that its distinctively national character may have been the reason it was chosen as the terrorists' target.

Referring to the political and diplomatic aspects of the terrorism issue as it is being played out in the US, Gilman noted that the State Department "failed" to submit a report to Congress on Arafat's compliance or non-compliance with its demand that the PA fight terrorism.

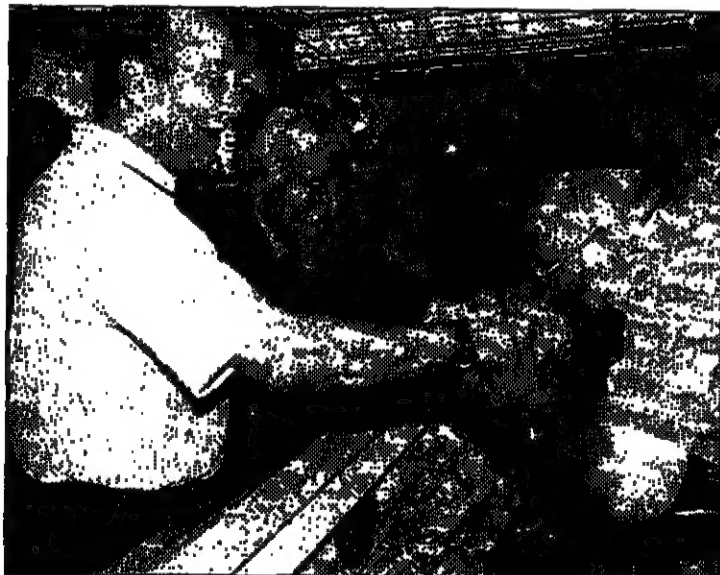
By not issuing the report in mid-July, as requested, the State Department made it obvious "even before the latest tragedy," that the US government could not certify that Arafat and the PA were complying with their commitment, he said.

In an interview conducted on the eve of the memorial ceremony, Hoenlein credited President Clinton with having encouraged and supported the omnibus antiterrorism bill "despite the reservations harbored by some members of his administration."

Hoenlein said it took 18 months to get it through Congress.

He praised the president's determination to stand up to terrorism in the US and abroad.

While various Arab-American groups which favor the regional peace process have been welcomed to the White House, persons known to support Hamas or



A Mahaneh Yehuda vendor kisses the hands of Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (left) and Benjamin Gilman during their tour of the market yesterday. (Ariel Jerozolimski)

who are suspected of being directly or indirectly-linked to any Middle Eastern terrorist activities never have been on the Presidential guest list, he went on.

Hoenlein was certain the State Department will publish a list of terrorist organizations as required by Congress, attributing the delay to legal considerations.

Referring to a speech made by Nabil Ramawi, the Palestine Liberation Organization's representative to the UN in Geneva, who accused Israel of injecting Palestinian children with the AIDS virus, Hoenlein said the US delegate, Nancy Rubin, has written a letter demanding that the UN repudiate it "on and for the record."

## Delegation threatens to withhold US aid to PA

By STEVE RODAN

A visiting delegation of US congressmen, expressing alarm over Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's embrace of Hamas, warned yesterday Congress will not renew aid to the PA unless it wages a successful battle against terrorism.

Members of the delegation also warned that if Arafat refuses to combat terrorism, the Israeli-Palestinian peace process will collapse.

"We want to see not only efforts," said Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-NY), chairman of the House International Relations Committee. "We want to see results. We want them to live up to their commitments. Until they do, we will hold back funds."

The delegation was scheduled to meet with Arafat in Ramallah last night and members said they would relay this to him.

Earlier, the delegation toured Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market, the scene of the suicide bombings on June 30 that killed 14 people and injured more than 170.

Gilman said he was not convinced Arafat was genuine in fulfilling his commitments under Oslo Accords, including the battle against terrorism and the PLO charter revision.

"So far, we have not been convinced that the PLO charter has been changed," Gilman said. "Some speak of 100 percent efforts. Some want 100% results. Arafat must make good on his commitments. Without such a commitment, there can't be a process. Yasser Arafat has come to a fork in the road. He must make a choice."

The annual \$100 million in aid to the PA was cut off on August 13, but congressional sources say the move only affected about 30 percent of the funding. The rest has already been allocated to projects sponsored by the US Agency for International Development.

An amendment sponsored by Rep. James Saxton (R-NJ) would cut off all funding to the PA.

A senior congressional source said the State Department plans to lobby hard to renew aid to the PA, when Congress returns from recess early next month.

Another member of the delegation, Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), said Congress will not rush to restore aid to the PA. "We're going to give this a harder and longer look after the terrorist attacks," he said. "We believe that Yasser Arafat has to go after terrorists and until he does, we will be reluctant to help him."

Engel also said he would tell Arafat of his concern over the PA's renewal of dialogue with Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

## NEWS

in brief

### Transport Ministry allocates NIS 3m. to North

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy announced yesterday he would allocate NIS 3 million for various projects in communities along the confrontation line in the North. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Terrorist victim back home 2 years after attack

Yael Lahav, 39, who was seriously wounded in the Bus No. 26 terrorist bombing in Jerusalem's Ramat Eshkol neighborhood, was released from Hadassah's Ein Kerem Hospital yesterday—exactly two years since the attack.

"I still don't remember a thing about what happened," she said. "My memory returned only two months after the attack." She had a series of operations on her arm, and still requires orthopedic aids, but is able to walk and even began driving lessons in a special car designed for her disability. *Irim*

### Top politicians setting up fund for the needy

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan and a list of Knesset members from various parties announced yesterday to set up a fund for the needy to which they would each donate NIS 1,000 a month from a special salary increase being paid to senior officials. Joining Eitan are MKs Yael Dayan of Labor, Naomni Blumenthal of Likud and Rehavam Ze'evi of Moledet. *Irim*

### Arab League asks help for Palestinians

CAIRO, Egypt—The Arab League has urged member nations to help the Palestinian Authority overcome financial hardships caused by Israel's three-week-old closure, a statement said yesterday. Arab League secretary-general Esmat Abdel-Meguid thanked Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who pledged \$10 million to the Palestinians on Tuesday.

Abdel-Meguid hopes that the league's other 21 nations will follow suit to enable the PA to "face the blockade policy (closure) and collective punishment imposed by Israel." *AP*

### Court asked to end bus segregation

The Israel Women's Network has petitioned the High Court to put an end to the segregation of men and women on certain bus lines in Bnei Brak. In its petition against Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy, the network says that segregation violates the Basic Law: Human Freedom and Dignity and is opposed to the principle of equality. They note that the women are told to sit in the back of the bus and that this is degrading and difficult for mothers with small children or women with heavy baskets. The petition also asks for a halt to plans to segregate some Jerusalem bus lines. *Batsheva Tsur*

### Plane swerves off-course during landing

An Egyptian plane swerved off the runway as it landed at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday morning and hit two light poles. No one was hurt. The pilot of the Air Sinai Boeing 737 arriving from Cairo managed to regain control of the plane and return it to the runway. *Irim*

## Official in PM's Office blasts Weizman

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Aryc Shumer, the director-general of the President's Bureau yesterday called for the dismissal of a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office who reportedly said that President Ezer Weizman is "undermining" the prime minister and government.

Ma'ariv ran the accusations in its lead story yesterday. Quoting an unnamed senior source in the Prime Minister's Office, the paper said that "Weizman pushes himself in everywhere and causes damage... he interferes in matters that do not belong to him, is pathetic, and wants to earn a second term of office at any price."

With reference to his upcoming visit to Washington, the official reportedly said: "Weizman used pressure to be received by [President Bill] Clinton and one can imagine what he will tell him."

The official added that the elected government, not the president, is supposed to conduct foreign policy.

"It is possible that there is someone in the Prime Minister's Office that does not like what I am doing,

but I do what I have to do," Weizman told Ma'ariv when asked for his response.

Asked about his remarks in the North that the government is not doing enough on a day-to-day basis and that the complaints of people there are valid, Weizman said: "[Foreign Minister] David Levy said the same thing. I have slept there three times when there were Katyusha attacks. Jealousy sometimes makes people go crazy."

He added that he is not aware of any problem between him and the president.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly was "furious" when he heard the official's remarks. "These remarks were made without my permission and, moreover, they are the exact opposite of my position," he was quoted as saying. "I admire and am very fond of the president."

He said the close relations between them have "become even stronger recently." During his Caesarea vacation last week, Netanyahu and his family twice visited the Weizmans informally.

Asked whether Netanyahu planned to dismiss the official,

his spokesman Shai Bazak told Educational TV's *Erev Hadash* yesterday: "We are not involved in investigations and axing staff... The president and prime minister work together well and will know how to do so in the future."

In a conversation from Washington, Shumer stressed that

whenever Weizman meets with foreign leaders, he stresses that Netanyahu is the address for political negotiations.

Bazak confirmed that the president's upcoming Washington visit, planned for October 4, is being coordinated between Shumer, and senior officials in the Prime Minister's Office.

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## Kiss of death?

"We're going to judge Chairman Arafat by deeds. Deeds are the coin of the realm when it comes to fighting terrorism." So says US State Department spokesman James Rubin, in response to the "unity conference" in Gaza, and the chilling pictures of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat kissing leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

A kiss is just a kiss, we are to believe. The question is whether it will be the kiss of death for the expectation that Arafat would fight terrorism, and therefore for the peace process itself.

The United States, though critical of the Gaza conference, remains convinced that Arafat will actively fight terrorism, as he committed to do in the Oslo Accords. The credibility of such a stance, however, is poised at the breaking point. If an American president had declared war on the Mafia and then publicly embraced Al Capone, no one would take his declared war seriously. Yet in Arafat's case, we are expected to understand that appearances are deceiving, that the words spoken and the gestures made are only to appease his violent opponents, while what happens on the ground is another matter.

The problem with this hopeful interpretation of Arafat's behavior is that terrorism is fought not just by aggressive police work, but by its rejection on a political, strategic and moral basis. The worst thing Arafat has said about terrorism is that it is bad for the Palestinians. Though he has condemned individual terrorist actions and expressed his condolences to Israeli leaders, such expressions are kept as formal as possible.

At no point has Arafat spoken out against terrorism as a method, as a tactic to achieving Palestinian political aims. He does not say that terrorism is no longer moral or justified now that Israel and the Palestinians have recognized each other's political rights, and now that the final-status talks could begin at any moment.

At the Gaza conference, attended by a Who's Who of terrorist leaders, such as George Habash and Naif Hawatmeh, Arafat did not condition his embrace on the renunciation of terrorism. On the contrary, Arafat said pointedly "all options are open." His message to the anti-Oslo opposition was, in essence, "I'm OK, you're OK. You believe it is good to send human bombs into a crowded marketplace. I don't—we have a legitimate difference of opinion."

The realpolitik view that such a stance is consistent with a serious fight against terrorism

stretches the imagination. It is, perhaps, theoretically possible that Arafat could fight terrorism and embrace terrorists at the same time. But, since the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing three weeks ago, there has been no massive wave of arrests by Arafat as happened after the suicide bombings in February and March of last year.

The skeleton of security cooperation has been reestablished by a series of three-way (Israel-Palestinians-US) meetings, and by a reported meeting between General Security Service head Ami Ayalon and Arafat on Tuesday. But as of yet, there is no evidence that Arafat is doing anything but the absolute minimum to fight terrorism.

It is now clearer than ever that Arafat will not fight terrorism because it is right, or because he has committed to do so, or even because it is in his enlightened self-interest. For Arafat, fighting terrorism is bitter medicine to be resisted at all costs.

Last time, it took a string of four deadly attacks and the prospect of Shimon Peres losing the Israeli elections for Arafat to take serious action. This time, even though the US has turned up the rhetorical heat and Israel is exerting substantial financial pressure, Arafat does not yet feel compelled to act.

Arafat does not feel under decisive pressure because, unlike when Peres was prime minister, Arafat feels that his inaction can be blamed on the Israeli government. The Netanyahu government is vulnerable to blame because, even in US eyes, it has not graduated out of its probationary status and become a member of good standing in the peace process.

While US governments have for a long time believed that Israel needed to be pressured into making peace, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came into office with a particularly large cloud of doubt over his head. However justified that doubt may initially have been, the American peace team now knows—after the Hebron agreement and the Netanyahu drive to accelerate final-status talks—that this government is no less committed to the peace process than was the previous government.

The US continues to refuse to say that, in the big picture, Israel is delivering on its commitment to gradually transfer territory and sovereignty to the Palestinians, while the Palestinians are in serious breach of their commitment to combat terrorism. Unless and until the US decides to credit Israel with a fundamental commitment to peace, Arafat will not feel under decisive pressure to deliver his side of the bargain.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### GET REAL

Sir, — Susan Harris Rolef, in a classic case of PLO-apologist thinking ("Yes, but...," August 4) believes that it is wrong of us to really expect Arafat to crack down on terror groups. She brings forth the usual arguments we've heard before (Arafat can't risk losing support of his people, he can't control the terror groups anyway, etc.) along with an interesting new one—that Arafat's people won't tolerate him "cooperating with foreigners whom they perceive as enemies," i.e., the Israelis. She even goes so far as to compare this with the attitude of the Yishuv towards the British 53 years ago!

Ms. Rolef seems to be conveniently forgetting an important point: Arafat signed agreements with us, saying he could and would "cooperate." That was in essence the entire gist of the Oslo agreements—we gave him control over certain lands, and he does what is necessary to give us peace. What good are these agreements if he can't deliver the goods?

If, as Ms. Rolef says, we shouldn't "expect them to tolerate" Arafat's cooperation with us, then what exactly were the Oslo accords all about, anyway?

Of course, Ms. Rolef knows where to place the real blame—where else but on the shoulders of our government, for not having a policy geared toward a settlement which "accords with the Palestinians' minimal demands." Never mind that these "minimal demands" amount to near-full

capitulation. So, not only is Arafat not to blame for signing agreements which he can't—or won't—abide by, but we are to blame for not setting policy with enough concessions to appease him, even beyond anything written in the agreements. It's one thing to disagree with settlement policy, or any of the security-related policies of the government. That's Rolef's right, and I can respect her opinion even as I disagree with it. It's quite another to not even expect our supposed "partner" to live up to his part of the deal. I can't respect that—and I seriously doubt that anyone else, including the PLO, can respect us when we adopt that attitude.

MURRAY GINGOLD  
Jerusalem.

### THE BIALYSTOK HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL

Sir, — Sometime around 1915, my father, Mordecai Isser Taub, organized a bilingual school in Bialystok, Poland, of which he was principal-headmaster. One of his teachers, Esther Gronowsky, subsequently became his wife and my mother.

The school undertook a then-revolutionary mission still relevant to issues currently confronting educational institutions throughout Western civilization.

Originally an elementary school, it subsequently provided grades kindergarten through gymnasium and became known as The Bialystok Hebrew High School, educating Jewish youth of Bialystok for competency, both as practitioners of the cultural, ethical and spiritual traditions of the ancient Jewish nation and as members of the scientific, industrial and commercial institutions of modern Poland/Europe.

COURAGEOUS CALL  
own highly inflated salaries. It was a decision and an act that would markedly reduce the overextended budget.

Let's see if they listen.

FRADA SIVON  
Jerusalem.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On August 22, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that the plenary meeting of the Jewish Agency Council held at Zurich and the new Executive composed of seven Zionists and five non-Zionists rejected the assertion of Lord Peel's Royal Commission on Palestine that the Mandate for Palestine was proved unworkable. It asked the British Government to convene a conference of Arabs and Jews to explore the possibilities of a peaceful settlement in an undivided Palestine.

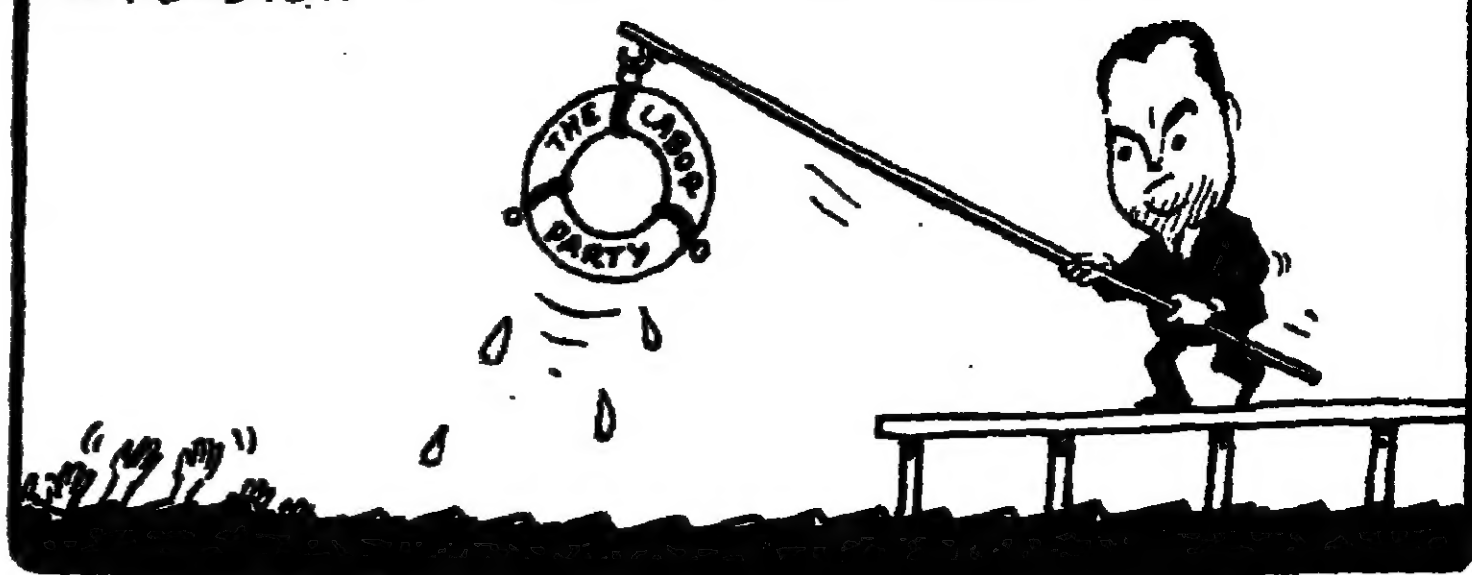
50 years ago: On August 22, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that "We will never land!" was the unanimous reply given by the Exodus 1947 "illegal" immigrants to Palestine held aboard the three British "floating cages" at Port de Bouc to the British Consul-General who came with an ultimatum that unless they began to disembark in France they would be sent to Germany. A number of British soldiers were injured and oil installations damaged in underground attacks throughout Palestine.

Two Jews were murdered in Rakva in Poland by a gang of antisemitic dressed in uniforms of General Anders's army. Further antisemitic excesses were reported from Poland and Austria.

25 years ago: On August 22, 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported that the US Secretary of State William Rogers had renewed his proposal for proximity talks between Israel and Egypt. Alert bathers foiled a bomb attempt in Netanya.

Alexander Zvielli

## MEIR ADINEN 1997



## Dual loyalty or disloyalty

MOSHE ARENS

The visit of Israeli Arab leaders and one Druse MK to Syria is an unprecedented event. Never before have members, far less leaders, of our minority community dared visit a country at war with us.

The significance of this journey to the land of the enemy lies not in the "messages" they delivered in Damascus or brought with them on their return, nor in the incongruous idea that Israeli Arabs can constitute a bridge for the resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict. Rather, it is the visit itself that is the message.

The Syrian dictator does not need Israeli Arabs as intermediaries to relay messages to our government—far more conventional and trustworthy channels are available for that. For Hafez Assad, it was a transparent effort to manipulate the Israeli Arab community as a counterweight to the policies of the democratically elected government of Israel. It is a clear indication that Assad, although lacking any experience in democratic government, understands the potential leverage that the large Arab community in Israel has on the political scene by virtue of its voting power.

As to sincerely promoting peace, he, better than many Israelis, understands that the Arab-Israeli conflict is essentially

a conflict between Arabs and Jews, and that the Israeli Arab population can at best serve as sympathetic onlookers while Arab and Jewish leaders attempt to resolve it.

As for the Israeli Arab leaders who were prepared to visit Syria under the label of "Palestinians from occupied Palestine" and there declare their support for

Circassian, and some of the Beduin citizens of Israel, the vast majority of Israel's Arab population does not serve in the IDF. What started out as a pragmatic arrangement in the early years of Israel's statehood has over the years been raised to a question of "principle": You cannot expect Arabs to fight Arabs, it is said.

That would not be considered a

### Sharing the burden of the defense of your country is the ultimate test of loyalty

Syria's positions, is it a matter of dual loyalty or disloyalty to the State of Israel? And do they reflect the sentiments of Israel's Arab population?

Dual loyalty, and sometimes even disloyalty, are charges that the Jewish people have had to face in the countries of the Diaspora. That these charges were groundless was proven time and again by the many Jews who served in the armed forces of the countries of which they were citizens. After all, sharing the burden of the defense of your country is the ultimate test of loyalty.

UNLIKE the Jewish, Druse,

valid excuse for non-service in the armed forces of any other democratic country. Aggression against Israel endangers the life and property of all its citizens, and Arabs have fought Arabs in Lebanon, in Yemen, in Algeria, and all over the Arab world. Should our Druse soldiers be freed from performing military service because Druse also serve in the Syrian and Lebanese armies?

This is a dangerous principle which violates the basic requirement that all citizens, regardless of origin or religion, share equally in the obligations of citizenship. Acceptance of this principle or, worse, embellishing it with legiti-

macy opens the door to the kind of outrageous behavior we were treated to recently in Damascus.

Even though most of the Arab population does not serve in the IDF, the leadership of Israel's Arab community has taken great care in past years to refrain from any contact with our enemies and from openly expressing support for their positions. But ever since the Oslo Accords, there has been a perceptible change.

The visit to Damascus has set a new marker which can be ignored only at our peril. This is as good a time as any to reexamine the relationship between the minority population and the state, and the obligations they have to each other.

Great progress has been made in recent years toward equalizing the position of Israel's Arabs with that of their Jewish compatriots. Much still needs to be done, especially for the Beduin.

On the other hand, Arab citizens not serving in the IDF is an anomaly that cannot continue to exist for any appreciable time without seriously endangering the integrity of our society. They, themselves, will probably never feel truly equal and at home here until their sons wear the uniform of the IDF.

The writer is a former defense minister.

## A policy of his own

MARK A. HELLER

And most of the measures imposed were also taken from the previous government's playbook: cessation of negotiations (which were about to be resumed), internal and external closure, and cancellation of special privileges for holders of Palestinian VIP passes. Netanyahu's one original contribution was the suspension of the transfer of taxes collected by

soon after they were imposed: "Humanitarian" exceptions to the external closure multiplied, and the internal closure was progressively lifted from all areas except Bethlehem (where Israeli and Palestinian security forces are still looking for Muhi Sharif and Mohammed Deif, the presumed successors of Yihya Ayyash).

### Netanyahu's 'different' approach to suicide bombings has led to increased US involvement in the peace process

Israel from Palestinians on behalf of the PA.

These measures involve a conceptual contradiction. They cannot be sustained for very long before the consequences for the Israeli government (foreign and domestic criticism, undermining of Arafat's authority, and strengthening of radical Palestinian forces) become intolerable, but they cannot be eased unless the PA meets counter-terrorism performance criteria which are almost impossible to define.

Besides, Arafat was cooperating more than his rhetoric suggested. His security people picked up 250 Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine suspects for interrogation and made samples of explosives from the bomb factories uncovered in Beit Sahur and Kalkilya available to the General Security Service.

Given the underlying conceptual problem and the fact of PA security cooperation, the rationale for maintaining the pressure was quickly undermined, and the most severe measures were hedged

BUT none of this resolved the problem of the one measure that made Netanyahu's response "different." The withholding of payments to the PA is particularly problematic both on legal grounds (the funds are not Israeli aid to the Palestinians, but Palestinian money which Israel collects for technical reasons) and on political grounds (it limits Arafat's ability to continue paying the salaries—and ensuring the loyalty—of the Palestinian bureaucracy and security forces). As a result, exhortations to ease up, even from the security community, were focused precisely on this issue.

Unfortunately, there was no political or journalistic fig-leaf that Netanyahu could point to to justify rescinding "his" contribution to the counter-terrorism arsenal—until the PA caught and convicted three Jericho residents who murdered Jerusalem taxi-driver Shmuel Ben-Baruch.

Some cynics have asked whether the release of 30% of the blocked funds means that Arafat has done precisely 30% of what is required from him. What it really

means is that Netanyahu has repealed 30% of the one component of his response to terrorism that differed from that of Rabin and Peres: the other 70% will be gone by the end of the month.

But there will remain an important difference between the way the Israeli-Palestinian relationship was managed before the last election and the way it will be managed now—and that is that it has been turned into a trilateral affair. Given the conditions about security cooperation that she laid out in her National Press Club speech earlier this month, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's trip to the region will inevitably be interpreted as an American seal of approval for whatever Arafat has or has not done up till then.

If Netanyahu had waited until her arrival (or just before), he would have had to hand over the money anyway, or else risk insulting Albright. But if he had done that, his own supporters would have criticized him for acting according to American assessments, rather than his own. Better to preempt, and at least look as if he is acting independently.

In fact, if Netanyahu is not acting in response to Albright's arrival, he is acting (almost certainly) against his own inclinations in anticipation of it. This is symptomatic of the intensified US involvement in the Palestinian track (also exemplified by the publicized presence of CIA representatives at the Israeli-Palestinian security meetings last week), and that is something which will ultimately cause Netanyahu far more trouble than the bomb in Mahaneh Yehuda.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

## POSTSCRIPTS

WHEN PEOPLE discover that something in the house is making them sick, they get rid of it, right? Guess again. Not when that something is a dog or cat, a study of 341 adults in Vancouver has reported.

Many people would apparently rather suffer than part with the one member of the family who bestows unconditional love.

Each person studied by Dr. Stanley Coren, a professor of psychology at the University of British Columbia, had been found to be allergic to dogs or cats, and each had been advised by a doctor to cease sharing living quarters with a pet. But barely one person in five complied with these

instructions. And 122 of the people studied had been found to be allergic to pets long enough ago for the animal they had been living with at the time to have died. But 70 percent had replaced the dead pet with a new dog or cat.

Coren concluded that "apparently many people find pets sufficiently important to their lifestyle that they are willing to ignore both chronic allergic symptoms and specific medical advice in order to continue living with them."

"Clearly, there would be a huge market for allergy shots that could effectively desensitize people to their pets."

GREAT MOMENTS in scientific research: we now know that male budgies are far more likely to be tempted into an illicit affair when out of sight of his vengeful mate.

Researchers Aliza Baltz and Anne Clark suspect male budgies wanted to avoid getting into trouble with their mates, or even being dumped.

The behavioral ecologists from Binghamton University, New York, said the small green parrots usually live in stable pairs when raising their young. During the breeding season, males bring home the food while females guard the nest.

Baltz and Clark studied 13 pairs of budgies as they were starting

to breed. They watched each pair together for 30 minutes then put the male in a cage a meter away.

Next to the male's cage, behind a screen, was a caged female he had not met before.

The researchers then gave each male two chances to "interact" with the new female—once under the stern stare of his mate and once while she was hidden behind a screen.

They then recorded the number of times the males engaged in bouts of head-bobbing, their distinctive courting behavior.

"It turned out that almost three quarters of the action occurred when their mates could not see them," their report said.



## When silence is not golden

Maybe I have been wrong these past two years. Maybe Americans should stop travelling to Israel. After all, if you are murdered by a Palestinian terrorist, that's your tough luck.

Those are not truly my feelings but it is the message that some of us are getting. The "us" are the parents and families of those Americans who have lost sons and daughters, sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers, to the suicide bombers and others who are so intent on not letting Jews live in the State of Israel. The message is coming not from the Palestinian side, but from our own.

I recently received the horrifying news that the Palestinian Authority has released a terrorist who, according to the Israeli government, was involved in the 1995 bombing attack in which my daughter, Alisa, was murdered.

A 35-page report issued by the Israeli government on July 20, 1997, stated that in recent months, the PA "has released dozens of terrorists from detention, including... Nabil Sharhi, who helped prepare the bomb used in the April 1995 Kfar Darom attack in which seven Israelis and one American [Alisa] were killed."

Unfortunately, this is not the only case in which suspects in the murders of Americans have been identified and found to be living in territory controlled by the PA.

For instance: The PA has ignored Israel's request to hand over Nabil Sharhi, who transported the explosives to the terrorist who carried out the August 21, 1995 Jerusalem bus bombing, in which five people, including Connecticut school teacher Joan Davenny, were murdered.

The PA has ignored Israel's request to hand over Nafez Mahmoud Sabih, who helped plan the February 25, 1996 Jerusalem bus bombing, in which Jewish Theological Seminary student Matthew Eisenfeld, of Connecticut, and his fiancée, Sara Duker, of New Jersey, were murdered.

STEPHEN M. FLATOW

dered.  
• Amjad Hanawi, who is suspected of involvement in the May 1996 murder of David Boim, 17, a dual Israeli-American citizen, was imprisoned by the PA, but then was given a vacation from jail in February 1997. He never returned. Another American citizen, Moshe Greenbaum, 17, was wounded in the same attack.  
• Amin Hindi, who is currently

**US Jewish leaders must speak out against the PA's release of terrorists who murdered Americans**

the head of Yasser Arafat's General Intelligence Service, masterminded the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre of 11 athletes, including David Berger, of Cleveland, a dual Israeli-American citizen.

Yet, since the issuance of the report, to my knowledge only one American Jewish organization, the Zionist Organization of America, has seen fit to take note of the situation and to ask the American government to act.

I AM publicly asking our Jewish leaders to speak out against the Palestinian Authority's release of Sharhi and to urge the United States government to use all means at its disposal to ensure the arrest and prosecution of Sharhi and others suspected in the murders of American citizens. The morality of the situation requires nothing less.

If, for some reason, Arafat will not transfer Sharhi to Israel for prosecution (as is required by the Oslo Accords), then we should demand he be transferred to the US for prosecution under the provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Act, which permits the US to prose-

cute an individual who murders an American abroad.

Special Mideast envoy Dennis Ross recently said that America cannot ask for extradition of Nafez Sabih (suspect in the Duker-Eisenfeld murders) because "one of the obstacles to doing that is the fact that the US does not have an extradition treaty with the PA," but that is not the case.

According to Malvina Halberstam, a law school professor and former counselor on international law in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the State Department, Ross is wrong. Halberstam has stated:

"While it is correct that we do not have an extradition treaty with the PA, that does not mean that Nafez Sabih cannot be transferred to the US for trial. Even states that have extradition treaties with each other often use other means of rendition such as deportation. If the PA wants to hand over Sabih to the US for trial, it can certainly find a way to do so. The problem is that, thus far, the US has not requested the PA to do so."

If our leadership is afraid of upsetting the Oslo apple cart, it should remember that it doesn't bother the PA when its release of terrorists and its inaction in ending the terror threat allows others to knock over the push carts at Mahaneh Yehuda and to enlarge the circle of victims and their families.

Failure to pursue Sharhi and his ilk sends a message to terrorists everywhere that if they murder Americans, they will not be punished.

It is bad enough that the State Department warns Americans against travelling in Israel. When American Jewish leaders are silent, they do the same.

The writer is the father of Alisa Flatow, a victim of the terror attack at Kfar Darom on April 9, 1995. He is the founder of the Alisa Flatow Memorial Fund which provides scholarships for study in Israel.



## Haredim in the zoo

Haredim have a public relations problem. As far as the secular media are concerned, they are the Jews who aren't there.

That does not mean, of course, that the haredim are not covered in the media. Quite the opposite. The media obsession with haredim finds its nearest parallel in the UN's obsession with Israel. (Standards of accuracy in both cases are roughly comparable.)

But while haredim are objects of discussion, they are not participants. The widespread assumption appears to be that no one in the haredi community is capable of articulating the community's world view in an intellectually coherent manner.

When issues involving the community arise, aligned on one side of the debate will be Jerusalem city councilman Ornan Yekutieli, MK Naftali Bennett, et al., and, on the other side, Dr. Menachem Friedman or some other academic specializing in the haredi community. But haredim will not be permitted to speak for themselves.

In short, haredim are viewed as fit objects of sociological and anthropological study, rather than as legitimate participants in the national debate. The only haredim ever quoted are those with a talent for self-promotion and providing good copy in the form of shock headlines, such as Yehuda Meshi-Zahav, self-styled "director of operations" for the Eida Haredit.

The only time that haredim can be assured of access to the media is to condemn someone within their own community. Thus after the Shavut confrontation at the Western Wall, rabbinic leaders were urged to publicly condemn the spitting and epithets or have it assumed they condoned it. Ignored was the repeated public rejection of violence as a means by all haredi authorities, most recently in the controversy over the Shabbat closing of Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan, when posters decrying violence signed by leading religious authorities appeared throughout Jerusalem.

Those who had never sought the views of rabbis on any issue of national concern suddenly proffered them a band on the cable spectrum, albeit for the exclusive purpose of apologizing. Not surprisingly, the generous offer was not seized upon.

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

THE relegation of haredim to the realm of historical curiosities adversely affects both the secular majority and the haredim. The former are cut off from those with the most profound knowledge of our common heritage: the Torah of Israel. Even more important, secular Jews are denied exposure to those for whom Judaism is most vibrant — a living, pulsing, all-encompassing way of life, not an artifact for nostalgic viewing in some museum.

Haredim too are injured by their exclusion from the national

**Treating haredim as historical curiosities adversely affects both the secular majority and the haredim**

debate. First, they are not forced to present traditional Judaism in terms that are understandable to those who start from different presuppositions.

But the problem goes deeper than that. Of necessity, the education of haredi children involves instilling them with a deep revulsion to all that is antithetical to Torah values in the surrounding society. It is not an education that starts from the premise that all truth is relative, and then tells the young, "Choose for yourself."

The danger for haredim in the negation of the surrounding society, however, is that in the process they will forget that society is composed of fellow Jews. For the haredi Jew, his role in life is to reveal the beauty of God's Torah through his words and deeds. But when haredim are consigned to their own enclaves and not allowed to speak to the broader public, the danger increases that they will forget about their audience.

Finally, the perception that the secular media will eagerly seize upon any lapses in the haredi community, but never allow that community to present itself in a favorable light can lead itself to a situation in which pressing issues within the community are not adequately addressed. The fear of "washing our dirty laundry in

public" stifles the open discussion necessary to finding solutions.

While haredim believe that the Torah is the blueprint for the perfection of human society, they are under no illusion — contrary to what much of the secular public thinks — that they have achieved that perfection.

Self-criticism is deeply engrained in the haredi mindset. The calls for collective repentance, for instance, that issue from the haredi world after every national tragedy are directed inward not outward. They are not, as is frequently charged, attempts to lay the blame for all that befalls us on the secularists.

The prophet Jonah's declaration "because of me is this great tempest," even though he was surrounded by idol worshippers, is an expression of the classic Jewish view: Our collective fate is determined first and foremost by those with the greatest awareness of God. Thus when haredim refrain from addressing their own shortcomings because of fear of a hostile media, they are being deterred from an essential spiritual task.

Both the haredi and secular worlds would benefit from a situation in which a column like this is not an anomaly, and a haredi writer for a general audience did not have to worry that he is being judged, to paraphrase Dr. Johnson, by the standards of dogs walking on their hind legs — the amazing thing is not that they do it well, but that they do it at all.

The writer is a biographer and comments on current events.

## Congratulations, Massoomeh Ebtekar!

For the first time in the history of Iran, a woman has been appointed vice president. She is Prof. Massoomeh Ebtekar of Teheran University.

Almost two years ago, Ebtekar and I sat together for 11 days in Beijing at the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women. Since delegates from various nations sit alphabetically by country, as an Israeli delegate I found myself sitting a few seats away from Ebtekar and the rest of the Iranian delegation.

As we worked long hours into the night drafting the Platform for Action, the document adopted by all of the member states at the end of the conference, we shared thoughts on how best to improve the status of women and ensure equality for girls and women all over the world.

Among the areas of critical concern at the conference was "the inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision making at all levels." As an Israeli women's rights lawyer, I can only be a bit envious as I congratulate Ebtekar and the new president of Iran for appointing such an educated, qualified woman to the vice presidency of her country.

According to newspaper reports, she was educated in the US and holds a doctorate in chemistry. In addition to the vice presidency, Ebtekar has been appointed director of the Department of the Environment.

Mohammed Khatami, the new president of Iran, received enormous support from the women of

SHARON SHENHAV

his country during the recent election and promised to appoint women to leading positions in his government. He has made a good beginning on his campaign promises with the appointment of Ebtekar. Sadly, in Israel, our political leaders are not so gender conscious. Despite a plethora of qualified women, our prime minister has not seen fit to appoint a

than those faced by their counterparts here.

Take, for example, the issue of marriage and divorce. Religious law governs in these areas and civil marriage does not exist. Women in Israel are forced to divorce in religious courts where religious law is interpreted by men only, as women cannot be judges in either rabbinical courts or

**As a women's rights lawyer, I can only be a bit envious of Iran for appointing a woman vice president**

woman to be his deputy. In fact, women are rarely seen in decision-making forums and the idea of equality between the sexes in the sharing of power is a joke.

Women's rights activists in our region will be watching with interest to see if and how Ebtekar uses her new position to improve the social, economic, and political status of Iranian women. One of her greatest challenges, which we will be following with special interest, is how she and her colleagues will deal with the influence of religion on the rights of women to marry and divorce, to participate actively in public life and to dress according to their taste.

ALTHOUGH we are proud that we live in a Western-style democratic state, the problems faced by Iranian women are not so different

physically attacked and verbally abused by religious extremists in Jerusalem because they chose to dress in summer clothes which were not considered modest enough. The Super So! supermarket chain has installed "modesty guards" at several of its stores. In these stores, women are not permitted to enter if they are wearing pants or if they do not meet the modesty standards set by some of the haredi customers.

Despite the ruling by the High Court of Justice over 10 years ago that a woman had a right to serve on a religious council, the issue has come up again and again as local rabbis refuse to allow duly elected women to sit on these councils. The cases include Eilat, Jerusalem, Netanya and Haifa.

Jewish women in Israel and abroad are probably the most highly educated and well organized group of women in the world. Jewish women's rights organizations are vocal and responsive. Nonetheless, we Jewish women have failed to achieve full equality in any area of private or public life.

Can it be that a country like Iran will prove to be more responsive to the demands of its women for justice and equality? Will Ebtekar succeed where we have failed?

The writer is director of the Overseas Department of Na'ama.

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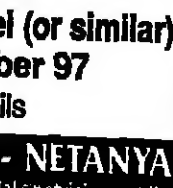
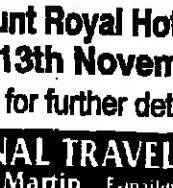
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## Column One

## The Blair necessities of government

By Thomas O'Dwyer

The secret of Great Britain would appear to be that it is much greater than the sum of its parts. That explains why it is mainly the English who are so afeared of splitting up the United Kingdom. (What sort of identity crisis is this — a former empire that can't even settle on one name for itself?)

It may also explain why there is blessed relief that a leader of the stature of Tony Blair has emerged to forge a new image for the nation. That's why it is still giving him an 80 percent approval rating after his first 100 days in office. Who would have believed we would ever live to see a Labor politician streets ahead of royalty in British opinion polls?

There is nothing wrong with some (or sum) of the parts of Britain. But, to digress to anecdote, after flying into London from a recent week in Scotland with some Israeli journalists, it was amazing to see how swiftly we all reached a snap decision — it is quite noticeable how unpleasant the English remain: superior and snobbish, yet tabloid-crude and yobbishly anti-intellectual, all at the same time. And they complain about the French!

Here was a lady foreign journalist trying to decide whether to send her luggage in one taxi while she travels in another. Help for the customer from your friendly London cabbie? English gentleman? Forget it. "Make up your bloody mind, mate," he snarled. "I 'ave'n't got all bloody day."

**Caligula's**  
Within the next two hours, we had been insulted by an obnoxious hotel receptionist who had lost two room bookings, and by the snuffy staff of a pretentious restaurant who turned a 10-minute wait for a pre-booked table into two hours. Their condescending Caligulan air suggested it served us right for not apprehending their greatness.

Our conversation while we waited was already laced with fond nostalgia for the Scots, who had endured us for a week with their utter charm, humor, culture and elegance.

No wonder all those old jokes are about the Englishman, the Irishman, and the Scotsman. (Poor old Wales — their culture was so suppressed for so long, scarcely even a stereotype survived, except maybe Jones the postman and Dylan the drunk. And Cornwall? Lost forever, alas.)

To understand the Brits, you have to dissect them into their component parts and discover how much the repressed English still stult behind the kilts of Nanny Cull.

But the kilts have been drawn aside in recent years to reveal to the cameras the devious and unpleasant side of a creaking old English establishment. There are the ridiculous royals — hereditary dinosaurs in a modern world, a

breed of chinless wonders so worried by falling IQ levels that they have been forced to breed with commoners to top up the gene pool.

And the commoners — well, put beggars on horseback and they'll ride to perdition, QED. There were also the exposed pro-Chinese mandarins in the Foreign Office who sold out Hong Kong's rights, like the earlier pro-Arab and Turkish mandarins who trampled on Jewish and Greek Cypriot rights.

**Beds and trousers**  
At least nobody elected the commoners, but the people did elect the Commons. That was where, despite the common decency of John Major, the sleaze of royalty future (the Harrods Payed family) met the sleaze of Commons about-to-be-past (backhanders to members for asking the right questions at prime minister's question time.) The leaping in and out of various beds and trousers that appeared to be the main exercise in both camps scarcely needs elaboration.

Maybe the British were so tired of the dreary affairs of the elite, they have granted Blair a whole-some honeymoon almost indecently long. But even more startling than his 80 percent rating was the finding in one poll that four out of 10 Conservative voters are still satisfied with the outcome of the election.

This is real leadership, this is the real government of the year — one that has rendered more than one Israeli commentator bright green with envy. Blair won, took charge, hit the ground running with policies forged by his experts and approved by a landslide vote. Overnight, and consistently since, he has replaced the Tory image of slide, corruption, and incompetence with one of a man and a cabinet attuned to the public mood. Tories talk down to people, Blair talks to them.

**Blair necessities**

When he was elected Labor leader in 1994, pundits predicted the rave reviews would fade and curl at the edges, the stratospheric poll figures would deflate and sink. They didn't. Now the pundits are beginning to wonder if this is a honeymoon at all. Maybe at last, in leaders like Bill Clinton, Blair, and Helmut Kohl, we have discovered a breed of politicians who really do know the bare necessities of running a country. (Please, can we have one?)

Ah yes — those bears at Buckingham palace, are they really a necessity? Blair's Ministry of Defense has ordered a search for synthetic alternatives to the bearskin in the tall hats of the guards, out of concern for the welfare of the Canadian brown bear. Synthetic bearskin! Labor government! Good god, sir! Next thing you know one of our princesses will run off with some middle-aged, Middle East, playboy.

## Police scandal rocks NY

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — New York police, recently basking in the glory of a foiled bomb plot, now are reeling under allegations that rogue cops in Brooklyn tortured a Haitian immigrant by shoving the wooden handle of a toilet plunger up his rectum.

As the police inquiry expanded yesterday, an instance of alleged abuse surfaced in another Brooklyn precinct. A police officer in 1994 sodomized a 17-year-old hassidic girl in his patrol car while his partner watched, according to radio reports.

And a grand jury was reviewing allegations against an officer in a third Brooklyn precinct. A woman who had been arrested last December on a disorderly conduct charge had been forced to perform oral sex while she was in custody, according to news accounts.

In response, Mayor Rudy Giuliani, saying he did not want New Yorkers to be afraid of the police, formed a 28-member task force on police and community relations, which was scheduled to hold its first meeting yesterday.

The task force, which has been a \$15 million budget, is to set up a series of meetings between the 38,000 members of the Police Department and New Yorkers.

The task force was created only days after an angry march on Brooklyn's 70th Precinct by more than 2,000 demonstrators, many waving plunger and Haitian flags.

In a tacit acknowledgement of police racism, Police Commissioner Howard Safir said that he would move more black officers into the precinct, including New York officers who had been sent to the Caribbean to help reform Haiti's abusive police.

The Brooklyn district attorney has charged two officers with aggravated sexual abuse and first-degree assault in the case of Haitian Abner Louima. Louima's attorney, Carl Thomas, demanded that the charges be upgraded to attempted murder, and Louima, 30, is expected to file a \$55 million claim against the city.

The police inquiry into the Louima assault was also trying to determine whether other officers in the 70th Precinct — which serves a large immigrant community — tried to cover up

the attack. Fourteen other officers face some kind of departmental disciplinary action.

Getting police cooperation had been difficult. When one police officer came forward late last week, Giuliani commended him, but also hinted at the danger police face when they police each other. The informant was not identified and is under police protection, the mayor said.

The police scandal, tinged with racism as well as brutality, comes only a few months before the mayoral election campaign.

Louima said one of his attackers told him, "This is Giuliani time, not Dinkins time," a reference to Giuliani's predecessor, David Dinkins, the city's first black mayor.

While New York's crime rates are down, however, suggestions of police aggression and abuse have risen in the last three years. Last year, there were a number of minorities fatally shot by police, including a unarmed navy veteran shot in the back on a Bronx subway platform, a unarmed 15-year-old shot dead in the back of a car, and an unarmed man shot 18 times while sitting in a parked car.

## 20 charged in US slave scam

By RONALD J. OSTROW

WASHINGTON (LA Times) — Twenty people were indicted Wednesday for allegedly smuggling more than 50 deaf and speech-impaired Mexicans into the United States and making them virtual slaves — at times beating, electrically shocking or otherwise coercing them to sell trinkets to the public.

In carrying out an alleged four-year conspiracy of involuntary servitude, outlined by a federal grand jury in Brooklyn that issued the indictments, some participants stand accused of beating a victim who begged for a day off because of sickness, electroshocking one for low sales and handcuffing an attempted escapee to a bed for more than a week while he attached key chains to trinkets.

"Every case of slavery is terrible, but this one is especially appalling because of the double exploitation," Isabelle Katz Pinzler, acting assistant attorney-general for civil rights, said at a news conference.

Authorities say the ring likely generated more than \$1 million in annual sales from the nationwide trinket business.

"An enterprise that existed for the sole purpose of exploiting the labor of hearing-disabled aliens has been substantially dismantled, and its ringleaders apprehended and held to face serious criminal charges," Zachary W. Carter, US attorney in Brooklyn, said.

In carrying out the conspiracy, recruiters lured deaf Mexicans to come to the United States, falsely promising them prosperous jobs, the 11-count indictment charged. After being smuggled into the United States, they were taken to Los Angeles and temporarily harbored at a safe house operated by three of the defendants: Andreas Pfeiffer, Hilario Rivera Paulenti and Carlos Rivera Lozano, Paulenti's son.

The three Los Angeles suspects, like the ringleaders in New York, are themselves deaf and speech-impaired, authorities said.



VMI welcomes women

Female Virginia Military Institute rat Erin Claunch gets yelled at by cadets while doing push-ups during rat line training at the school this week. Claunch is part of a group of 30 females — the first ever — to enroll in the 158-year-old school. (AP)

## TRUTH

Continued from Page 1

"Truth does not automatically lead to reconciliation," Friedman said, citing the case of Brian Mitchell, a former police officer granted amnesty for his involvement in the killing of 20 villagers.

Mitchell has pledged to spend three days a week for the rest of his life doing social work in the victim's community.

"At least we would be on firmer ground... linking amnesty to a process in which a person is saying: 'Look, what I did is wrong and I want to try to correct it.'"

Friedman said. "It becomes easier for people to respect the process."

The Hani case focuses on the assassination of a key politician as part of an effort to foment a right-wing revolution. It also highlights the dilemma the country faces in trying to put its past behind it, and the tensions that persist as society seeks reconciliation through truth.

Remorse is not a prerequisite for amnesty because the drafters of the statute decided it would be too difficult to judge whether it was genuine.

"How do you test remorse?" said Dennis Potgieter, a member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, who helped draft the legislation. "It's not really practi-

cal." Parliament decided that full disclosure is "a better indication that you take some responsibility for what you have done."

"I am convinced... this is the most effective way to deal with the past and somehow not just walk away from it," Potgieter said. "That is the kind of reality we are facing."

But this reality is sometimes difficult for society to accept, as can be seen during the hearings in the Hani case, taking place in the auditorium of Pretoria's old City Hall.

There is scant evidence of reconciliation in the room. On one side sit the killers' supporters, all white, all favoring forgiveness. On the other sits Limpho Hani with her daughters Lindiwe and Nomakwezi, surrounded by outraged sympathizers, all black, all demanding retribution.

Hoots of derision and bursts of applause alternate between the two sides, detracting from the restraint of a legal hearing and contributing to a sense of confrontation.

On the floodlit stage, seated at three white covered tables against a black curtain, are the two killers, the Hani family lawyers opposing the amnesty applications, and the committee members who will decide their fate. They all follow the testimony of how and why Hani was killed four years ago — setting off a wave of violence that left 54 people dead — and why his assassins believe they should now walk free.

Clive Derby-Lewis, a smooth-talking politician of the ultra-right Afrikaner Conservative Party, was the mastermind. He supplied the murder weapon, a stolen 9 mm. 288 pistol with a silencer.

The man who pulled the trigger was Janusz Walus, an anti-communist Polish immigrant, saw-toothed and crop haired, who shot Hani at point blank range on the driveway of his home.

Both were sentenced to death for the murder, but the government of President Nelson Mandela has outlawed the death penalty and the sentences were commuted to life imprisonment.

Derby-Lewis — the only one of the pair to testify so far — has expressed sorrow to Limpho Hani, who sits daily in the front row glowering at her husband's assassins. Her chief attorney, George Bizos, argues against freeing them.

"I do not expect the Hani family to forgive me," Derby-Lewis said. "There was nothing personal in our attack. If anything, it was an indication of his importance and status."

"I am the last to cry for him," Walus told police after his arrest. "He was the leader of the communists in this country and I hated him for that."

Hani was chosen as the victim because he was a high-profile personality regarded as a potential future president. According to Derby-Lewis, the murder was intended to plunge the country into chaos, allowing the extreme right to seize control from the ruling white National Party of President F.W. de Klerk, who was preparing to hand over control to the black majority led by Mandela. "We were ready for war," Derby-Lewis told the tribunal. "It was patently obvious to me that de Klerk was busy with the betrayal of the Afrikaner people."

Derby-Lewis was also driven by religious fervor. Justifying the selection of Hani for assassination, he wrote that his death would "strike a blow for almighty God and Christianity against the anti-Christian communism in the form of the leader of the South African Communist Party."

But with amnesty in mind, he stressed that while his "duty is to almighty God," the driving motivation for the Hani murder was political.

"Derby-Lewis has been well advised by his lawyers," said Friedman. "He is doing what he should be doing in order to comply with the formula [for amnesty], but it creates somewhat different consequences for people who are trying to restore confidence and respect for justice."

The hearing is expected to continue several more days; the committee is expected to take several weeks, if not months, to reach its decision.

We would honor your presence at the first year memorial gathering for

**Dr. BENJAMIN HALEVI** ז"ל

Honorable Justice of the Supreme Court  
Honorable Member of the Knesset

to be held on August 25, 1997 (כ"ב באב תשנ"ז)  
at 5:00 p.m. (17:00) at the  
Sanhedria Cemetery, Jerusalem.

Widow: Michal Halevi  
Son: Dr. Hal Halevi and Zahava  
Daughter: Ophra and Prof. Geoffrey Spyer  
Grandchildren: Yael and Carmel Spyer  
Shaul, Shachar and Yair Halevi  
Great-granddaughter: Adil Halevi

On the fourth anniversary of the death of our dear husband and brother

**ERICH YAKOV HAIM BAUM** ז"ל

we will visit his grave at the Har Hamenuhot Cemetery, Jerusalem, on Monday, August 25, 1997 at 2:30 p.m.

His wife, Dr. Laszlo-Baum

The unveiling of the tombstone of our dear father and grandfather

**JOSEPH SCHNITZER** ז"ל

will take place on Sunday, August 24, 1997, at 5:00 p.m., at the Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, Beit Sheshem.

Sharon and Julian Himmelfarb and family  
Avrumle and Marjo Schnitzer and family

We mourn the untimely passing of our friend and colleague

**ELLEN SCHECHET**

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Thirty years have passed since the death of our dearest father and grandfather

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Son, Joseph  
Daughter, Sheila  
Granddaughters, Michela, Hadas, Evis.

A memorial service will be held on the 5th yearzeit of  
**Rabbi Prof. ELIEZER BERKOVITS** ז"ל

on Monday, August 25, 1997 (22 Av 5757) at 10:30 a.m. at the Eretz Hachaim Cemetery (RCA area)

The Family

Nita Schechet grieves for

**ELLEN**

The funeral took place yesterday, August 21, 1997.  
Shiva at 25 Harav Berlin, Jerusalem.

With great sorrow we announce the sudden passing of our beloved father and grandfather

**DAVE STANGE**

on August 18, 1997 in Durban, South Africa.

Deeply mourned and sadly missed by  
Children: Max, Peter and Dorit  
Grandchildren: Michael, Shelley and Eyal

On the first anniversary of the passing of our beloved

**HANNAH WEINSTEIN** ז"ל

a memorial service will take place on Tuesday, August 26, 1997, at 5 p.m., at the Yarkon Cemetery, Tel Aviv. We shall meet at the graveside (Block 1, Area 8, Row 5, No. 10).

Simle Weinstein and Family

The South African Zionist Federation in Israel and South Africa mourns the passing of

**SIDNEY BERG**

Former General Secretary of SAZF, and a distinguished Jewish and Zionist visionary



## Making a pact with the devil?

By reaching out to his Islamic opposition, the PA chairman is admitting weakness and putting his leadership at risk, Steve Rodan and Mohammed Najib report



Reconciliation: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat embraces his Islamic militant rival, Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi, during a show of Palestinian unity in Gaza City on Wednesday. (AP)

About a year ago, Sheikh Hamid Bitawi and several Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to reopen the offices of the Moslem Brotherhood, closed since Israel took over the West Bank after the Six Day War. For months, the Palestinian Authority did not reply. Now Arafat is pressing for cooperation with Hamas and Islamic Jihad as part of a "national dialogue," which took place on Wednesday and yesterday, and Bitawi hopes that the PA chief will approve the sheikh's request to revive the Moslem Brotherhood movement.

"The PA has never said yes or no to us," Bitawi says. "But we learned that the great majority of PA officials are opposed to the demand." Arafat might be embracing his Islamic opposition in public. But privately, both Arafat and his senior advisers are worried that a powerful Hamas will exploit the PA's welcome mat to garner even greater popularity and influence in Gaza and the West Bank. At a time when the PA seems to be doing nothing right, the Hamas alternative stands out as the most genuine hope.

Palestinian analysts, including those in the PA, say Arafat is desperate. The credibility of his rule, and particularly of the Palestinian Police, is at an all-time low. The latest example is the protest in Beit Sahur against police, after

What Arafat wants, Israeli officials say, is a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and an internationally recognized corridor connecting the West Bank to Gaza. But Arafat is seeing his hopes being dashed. Indeed, the officials say, the closure over the past three weeks proved how weak the PA is. Arafat could not pay salaries, health and education services plummeted and many Palestinians were left without funds.

Enter Hamas. Its schools have been operating on schedule. Its clinics are serving Palestinians everywhere. And its charities are providing loans to the needy.

ARAFAT HAS wavered between embracing the opposition and destroying it. Take Bitawi's request for the renewal of the Moslem Brotherhood movement. After months of silence, two leading PA officials met with members of Bitawi's group in Nablus in June. The officials, according to the account of a senior Palestinian source, tried to convince some of the clerics to break away from the Moslem Brotherhood and establish their own Islamic movement.

The sheikhs were noncommittal. Still, the officials hurried to Arafat and urged him to sign an order that would grant Bitawi's group a license to a splinter Brotherhood group. Arafat did not

**"This kind of dialogue with Hamas happens when there is a crisis, when Arafat does not have an answer, when the PA feels that it needs Hamas's weight."**

they wounded several people last week while breaking up a demonstration using live ammunition.

Arafat, Palestinian sources say, can't even organize mass anti-Israeli demonstrations. Unlike previous crises, Arafat can't depend on Palestinian refugees around the Arab world. He neglected them when he signed the Declaration of Principles in 1993 with Israel that virtually ignored those Palestinians outside the territories.

"This kind of dialogue with Hamas happens when there is a crisis, when Arafat does not have an answer, when the PA feels that it needs Hamas's weight," a Palestinian analyst close to the leadership says.

"When they had the Oslo agreement, Arafat didn't need anything. He had all the backing he needed. Now, the PA feels very weak. Nobody is backing it."

Israeli security officials take a darker view. As they see it, Arafat is in a feisty mood. He is preparing for a confrontation and wants Hamas fighting alongside him.

"He wants to form a united front," an Israeli security official says. "This way [US Secretary of State Madeline] Albright comes and he doesn't get what he wants, he won't have a problem to go to confrontation."

sign the request and shelved it until further consideration.

The Moslem Brotherhood, however, thought the worst. Sheikh Ibrahim Abu Samhadneh, chief justice of the Sharia (Moslem) court in Gaza, demanded an urgent meeting with Arafat. He told Arafat that nobody had ever succeeded in splitting the Brotherhood.

"You are playing with fire," the senior Palestinian source quotes Samhadneh as saying. "You will pay dearly for this."

Samhadneh resigned from the state-supported Islamic court and moved to Jordan. Arafat was in a panic. He was said to have feared that word of such a resignation would reverberate throughout Gaza and the Arab world. The PA chief contacted Palestine National Council head Salim Za'atoun and told him to speak to Samhadneh. The sheikh, however, wouldn't budge.

Today, Arafat wants to make his peace with Hamas. He resisted heavy Israeli and US pressure to arrest Hamas militants after the Mahaneh Yehuda bombings on July 30. He has approved closer coordination between his Fatah movement and Hamas.

In addition, Arafat met with Hamas leader Mousa Abu Marzook earlier this month and,

according to Palestinian sources, pressed for genuine cooperation with the Islamic fundamentalist movement. The PA chief has escalated his threats against Israel and says the Palestinians could abandon the peace process with Israel.

ARAFAT, PALESTINIAN analysts say, has changed his mind about Hamas's value. The change is largely due to the return of Abu Marzook to Amman. Abu Marzook, head of the organization's political wing, was deported earlier this year from the US to Jordan and now maintains a low profile. However, he has succeeded in restoring cooperation between Hamas in the territories

and the leadership abroad. "Mousa Abu Marzook has been playing the delicate role of bringing together the dovish leadership in the territories and its hawkish counterpart in Amman, such as spokesman Ibrahim Ghousheh," a Hamas analyst says. "Thanks to Abu Marzook, we don't see the dichotomies anymore."

Abu Marzook has also been managing the flow of new funds to the organization. The main donor has been Saudi Arabia. Hamas offices have opened in Jeddah and Riyadh and banks in Europe and Jordan are used to transfer funds to Gaza and the West Bank.

The result is that conservative

estimates place support for Hamas in the territories at 35 percent.

But Hamas is playing it cool with the PA. Although the Islamic group is not boycotting the current national dialogue as it did the one in Nablus earlier this year, the sheikhs want to discuss practical steps.

"Our participation in the conference was approved on condition that Arafat discusses the release of Hamas detainees who are still in PA jails directly after the end of the first session of the national dialogue," Hamas leader Abdul Aziz Rantisi says.

The Islamic movement is also demanding that the PA end security cooperation with Israel. That,

Israeli officials say, is indeed taking place, as the exchanges of intelligence information has become paltry. The low point came in the aftermath of the Mahaneh Yehuda bombings, when PA security officials refused to make arrests of suspected Hamas terrorists, refused to release information obtained in interrogations of Hamas militants and gave Israel misleading information meant to convince the General Security Service that the suicide bombers did not come from the territories. "Unfortunately, there has been no progress made in the investigation," IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Oded Ben-Ami says.

ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE sources say Arafat is taking his biggest risk in trying to forge cooperation with Hamas. They say Hamas is growing stronger and any dialogue will legitimize the Islamic movement while pointing to the increasing weakness of Arafat.

Privately, senior aides to Arafat agree and have warned the PA chief of the dangers of Hamas.

A memorandum from PA Preventive Security chief Mohammed Dahlan to Arafat, first published on June 7 in the Amman newspaper *Al Urdun*, whose contents were confirmed by Palestinian and Israeli intelligence sources, warned that Hamas is preparing to

"The potential competition, contradiction and conflict between the authority and Hamas-controlled town councils would prove time- and energy-consuming and could distract us from pursuing our national interests," the memorandum reads. "It would be hard to take in [Hamas] and attempt its liquidation without the authority laying itself open to considerable risks on the domestic and foreign fronts."

DAHLAN DOES not oppose a national dialogue. But he warns against allowing Hamas to grow as a result. He also urged that PA and Fatah officials be more restrained in dealing with Hamas. "To check such inclinations, hints must be dropped of the possibility of severe deterrent action," he writes.

The PA security official calls for all candidates in the municipal council elections to be screened and that the campaign be closely monitored to eliminate a campaign against the PA.

"A step-by-step media and political campaign must be launched to warn the public against the danger inherent in a replication of the Algerian experience, using television, the press and political supporters, among other means," Dahlan writes. "An effort must be made to warn against bloody violence that the Palestinian society could be plunged into should

**"A step-by-step media and political campaign must be launched to warn the public against the danger inherent in a replication of the Algerian experience."**  
- Preventative Security chief Mohammed Dahlan

exploit any crisis in the peace process or within the PA and plans to gain control over municipal councils when elections are held.

Dahlan's memorandum said Hamas is using the "Algerian model," in which it is avoiding a showdown with the PA while winning supporters from within Fatah, the PA and the Palestinian Legislative Council.

"In the event Hamas gains control over the municipal councils, the public would juxtapose the authority's past performance with the superior services provided by the movement," Dahlan's memorandum reads. "Once in control of municipal councils, Hamas would use the cover of legitimacy to immunize itself against being harassed by the authority's security services."

Dahlan envisions a scenario in which successfully-run Hamas-dominated municipal councils, aided by a massive inflow of funds from Islamic groups abroad, would win Israeli and US support as being a model of democracy. The result would be like that in Algeria, where the international community would relate to the government and opposition as equals.

Hamas win the vote to run the town councils."

Finally, Dahlan urges that "alternative and practical options, including postponing the vote or amending the law, be considered to avoid elections results harmful to the PA."

Indeed, PA officials acknowledge that despite Arafat's pledges, plans to hold municipal elections have been shelved.

Hamas militants have few illusions about Arafat's invitation for cooperation. They say they are prepared to join the PA in battle against Israel. But they will not allow Arafat to co-opt key members of the Islamic opposition in what they are convinced is his continued drive to neuter the movement.

"We are making it clear that Hamas is not like Fatah," a key Hamas operative says, echoing a recent address of Rantisi to his followers. "We are not based on the leadership of one man, even that of [Hamas founder] Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, let alone Mousa Abu Marzook."

"We are committed to a principle. We are working with Yassin, not for Yassin. We won't follow Fatah by worshipping people."

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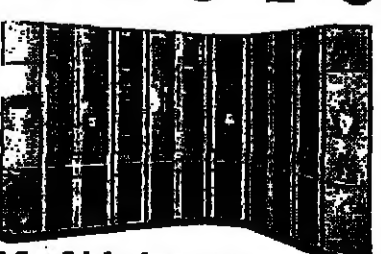
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## ANALYSIS

# 'But the terrorists came from abroad'

By BARRY RUBIN

Saying that terrorists came from "abroad" has been presented as an excuse for not halting them, as if they were invaders from outer space unstoppable by any human effort. But the exact opposite is true. When people cross borders into your territory and operate freely there, that is a far worse indictment of either political willpower or security measures than when "local" terrorists strike.

Some years ago, an Egyptian newspaper reported that Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, an Egyptian Islamic radical and notorious advocate of terrorist violence involved in the assassination of president Anwar Sadat, was living in the US. About that time, Israel detained two Palestinian-Americans on ample evidence they were carrying money and orders for Hamas terrorists here.

Israel warned the US that such groups were active in America and that terrorism might spread there.

But US authorities failed to discover what a small Egyptian newspaper knew. They were unimpressed with Israel's warnings. A former intelligence official told *Time* magazine that Israel was just trying to deflect attention from the intifada.

A week later, Abdel-Rahman's followers blew up the World Trade Center.

(Incidentally, two weeks later that same retired American official, the one who had ridiculed the terrorist threat, told *Time* that he had long warned against the danger of domestic terrorism.)

Was Abdel-Rahman let into the US because of his help in fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan, or did US immigration authorities, as they claimed, simply have no idea of the notorious blind cleric's identity?

The answer isn't clear. But, as Napoleon's foreign minister

bombs, to work for weeks and months in the same location makes it even more likely that he will become known to police or other authorities.

This, of course, does not mean that Arafat can be expected to have a perfect record or know of a specific plan. But it does show that the PA has become more permissive about allowing an occasional attack — though not too many — believing that such violence gives it leverage against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy.

At any rate, PA behavior has been far worse in the past few months than during the four preceding years.

Orders for the Mahaneh Yehuda attack and the terrorists themselves may well have come from radical leaders abroad backed by Iran and/or Syria. But these operations were mounted from PA soil; direct counterterrorist responsibility was in the PA's hands. The terrorists were probably in Israeli jurisdiction only during the half-hour or so before the explosions occurred.

THE main danger of the bomb plant in Brooklyn is that what happened may be forgotten too soon, or regarded as a freak, one-time occurrence. At the very least, the strange story of two Palestinian immigrants deciding to blow up New York City's World Trade Center is still another sign of America's extreme vulnerability to terrorism. One thing is sure: Every terrorist group in the world is watching and taking notes for possible future use.

The ease with which these men entered and stayed in the US makes US law and law enforcement appear farcical. If the men were caught only because of the conscience of an Arab-American who discovered their plan by chance — a blow against ethnic stereotyping, but no credit to US security agencies — future attacks

**When people cross borders into your territory and operate freely there, it is a far worse indictment of political willpower or security measures than when 'local' terrorists strike**

Charles Talleyrand remarked, some things are worse than crimes — they are products of stupidity.

Two current terrorist cases illustrate this principle. Both instructive, they have been widely misinterpreted.

In Jerusalem, two Palestinians blew themselves up in the Mahaneh Yehuda market, killing 14 people. In Brooklyn, New York, two recent Palestinian immigrants preparing for an ambitious series of bombings were caught.

After the Jerusalem explosions, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat — echoed by much of the Western media — used the claim that the suicide bombers had come from abroad to deny any responsibility for the attack. Several times previously, Hamas had adopted the cynical ploy — no less effective for international public relations — of using bombers from villages still under Israeli control; in this way they sought to distance the deed from PA responsibility and themselves from punishment by the PA.

In reality, though, if the Mahaneh Yehuda attackers really did come from another country, that would indicate an even more serious PA failure. Understanding why requires only the simplest common sense about security.

Imagine a would-be suicide terrorist living at home in the West Bank or Gaza. He goes about his normal day-to-day life as he has done for years, living with his family, going to work or school, maintaining his regular political activities. There are only two abnormal events: when he is informed of his mission, and when he picks up the bomb already en route to his target.

Compare this to the migrant terrorist. He arrives in town, a new face of fresh interest to PA police and intelligence — after all, he might be an Israeli agent, or on a mission to assassinate Arafat. He must have a place to stay, establish new contacts, and be fully instructed on where to go and how to act. Messages must be passed to confirm his orders and credentials. Surely more people will know about what is going on.

In either case, the terrorist needs a bomb manufactured on PA-controlled territory. The need to involve several people, to obtain and transport substances known to be used in making

have good prospects for success.

Why haven't more terrorist groups attacked in the US? Historically, they felt unfamiliar with that country and overestimated the difficulties. More recently, America has been too good a safe haven and fund-raising locale to risk losing. Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders have spent years operating there without problems.

Hamas quickly disclaimed any connection with the Brooklyn plot. Perhaps this is true. That two West Bank Palestinians, one of them a Hamas activist, go to the US, drift around, happen to meet, instantly trust each other, and just happen to know how to make bombs seems open to question. Yet stranger things have happened. At any rate, the investigation must find what international connections, if any, do exist.

On two previous occasions, the New York police and US government were too quick to assume that terrorist acts were merely the work of lone, crazed gunmen. Meir Kahane, it turned out later, was assassinated by a man from Abdel-Rahman's group. If this had been uncovered at the time, the World Trade Center bombing would never have happened, and several more Americans would now be alive.

The same may be true of a Palestinian who shot up the Empire State Building and killed a tourist before shooting himself.

Despite official findings, there is real evidence that the man was trained and helped on this mission by a terrorist group. If Hamas or others have decided to change tactics toward the US, it would be because they feel the struggle has escalated and — after Abu Marzook's deportation and other measures — think that America's safe-haven status is wearing off.

Again, it is not clear that this is the case, but the notion warrants more serious consideration than it seems currently to be receiving in the US.

When terrorists come from abroad it does not defuse the threat. On the contrary, it requires very serious rethinking of political issues and security measures.

The writer is senior resident scholar at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies and editor of the Middle East Review of International Affairs.



Palestinian youths burn an Israeli flag Wednesday during a demonstration in Rafah against the closure. (AP)

## The closure: Security boost or ticking bomb?

Three weeks after the Mahaneh Yehuda suicide bombings, Palestinians are still under closure in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Jon Immanuel probes whether the blockade is effective or whether it may be making it more difficult for the IDF and Palestinian Authority to crack down on terrorism

It's a routine response to nearly every terror attack. A suicide bomber blows himself to smithereens in an Israeli bus, marketplace or cafe, and a closure is clamped on all Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinians resent it because about 100,000 of them are kept from earning livelihoods in Israel. But the Israeli public feels a tad more secure, believing that security forces will have an easier time keeping terrorists away.

Israeli and Arab experts are beginning to question the closure's effectiveness. Observers point out that the closure often doesn't even work since many Palestinians manage to bypass roadblocks, sometimes even under a soldier's gaze.

Ironically, the closure may be hitting hardest at the moderate Palestinians, those who passed security muster to obtain work permits. Many tend to obey the IDF and stay home because they would rather avoid risking a run-in with a border policeman and end up having their permit pulled.

Yet the Palestinians who pose a greater threat to Israel — those never issued work permits for security reasons — are the ones who try to infiltrate the roadblocks, in many cases successfully.

Resentment festers among Palestinians with permits who watch as those lacking the documents return home daily with cash in hand. Many workers couldn't even pick up their July paychecks since the Mahaneh Yehuda bombings came on the 30th, a day before payday.

"The black-market workers come to work as usual, but legal workers cannot," said Mohammed Amer, who works for Kav Le'Oved (Workers' Hot Line), an Israeli organization devoted to the rights of Palestinian and foreign workers. Amer said that sometimes a

steady stream of Palestinians can be spotted infiltrating from the Kalkiya area, not far from the Abu Smeih roadblock.

Sometimes law enforcement of the closure is humane, as in the case of a young Palestinian mother who

their effectiveness.

"From a security standpoint we have to see things in a wider context," Shohor told Israel Radio. Instead of strengthening security, "we are actually achieving the opposite," he said.

Some officials are concerned that the extremists gain an upper hand during closures. They feel the government's decision to withhold tax money from the Palestinian Authority and a stepped-up campaign of demolishing illegally built homes, could be fueling resentment and enhancing sympathy with Islamic extremists, instead of helping Israeli security.

David Bar-Ilan, director of communications for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, reasoned that much of the money went to pay Palestinian police officers suspected of involvement in attacks on Israelis. But the PA also needs to pay its police to conduct the crackdown on terrorism that Israel demands.

Brig. Gen. Salim Bourdine, deputy head of the West Bank and Gaza civil police force, noted yesterday that prime minister Yitzhak Rabin used to compensate the PA during closures to show that the measure was for security and not punishment.

"Unlike Netanyahu, Rabin used to compensate us for losses during closures," Bourdine said. He recalled

**"Unlike Netanyahu, Rabin used to compensate us for losses during closures."**

—Salim Bourdine

recently managed to evade checkpoints between Jericho and Jerusalem to fetch her baby from Makassed Hospital.

Other times it isn't. Tragically, three Jericho residents convicted of murdering taxi driver Shmuel Ben-Baruch last week apparently also skirted a roadblock to enter Jerusalem without permits.

Oren Shohor, former government coordinator for the West Bank and Gaza, presided over several closures in the past three years but questions

two Israeli payments to the PA of \$15 million and \$20m. made during closure periods.

This is what PA chairman Yasser Arafat has sought to point out, but his warnings sometimes get lost in the combative rhetoric he spews out

**"From a security standpoint we have to see things in a wider context. Instead of strengthening security, we are actually achieving the opposite."**

—Oren Shohor

in speeches, such as a call this week to his people to prepare for a battle, "as we swore when we fired the first bullet for Jerusalem."

The statement was loosely translated by most Israeli media as a call to armed struggle, a strategy Arafat

was supposed to have ditched when he made peace with Israel in 1993. Few Israelis actually understood that Arafat's main point was that he wanted to release Israel's stranglehold on PA tax money.

Another potential consequence of the closure is a threatened Palestinian boycott of Israeli products, which could cost the Israeli economy tens of millions of dollars daily in lost revenues, or some \$2 billion a year.

The boycott called this week is reminiscent of the repeated general strikes and attempts at blockading Israeli goods that took place during the intifada. More ominously, it signals another backslide into the pre-Oslo agreement era and more of a rapprochement between the PLO and Hamas. Hamas has called for boycotting Israel since 1991, and at the time, Fatah opposed the strategy.

But Israel's persistent closures after bombings seem to make many Palestinians feel like they're back in intifada times.

Already there are indications that the boycott is being observed.

"Today we returned Israeli fruit, appliances, toys, dairy products and frozen meat," Hisham Dasouki, a Palestinian security chief at the Karmi crossing point into the Gaza Strip, told the Ramallah-based daily *Al-Ayyam* Monday.

Palestinian customs officials are also carrying a list of banned Israeli goods. Explaining the boycott, one Palestinian scientist said that the message from Oslo had been economic interdependence between the Palestinians and Israel, and globalization.

"Now that Israel is changing the game, we must too," said Jad Izhak, a food biologist in Bethlehem, who says he was arrested during the intifada for writing a handbook teaching Palestinians to grow vegetables in window boxes instead of buying from Israel.

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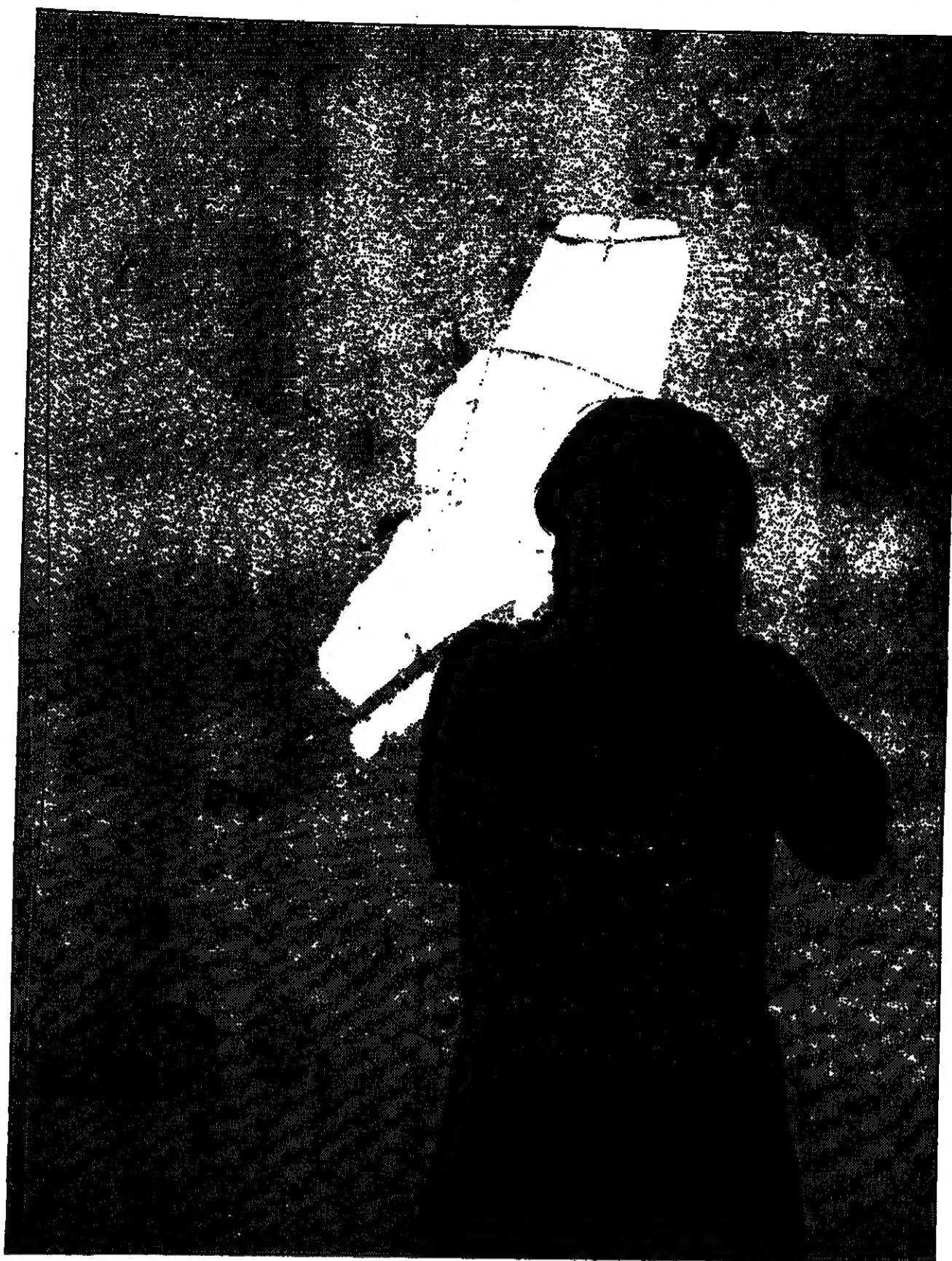
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# Lebanon: Is there any other way?



A resident of Kiryat Shmona surveys the damage to her home following Tuesday's barrage of Katyusha rockets fired by the Hizbullah; Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri visits a 10-year-old injured in the South Lebanese Army (AP)

## The answer is to get out — now

Isn't often that Likud MK Gideon Ezra finds himself on the side of MK Yossi Beilin and other "dovish" Labor parliamentarians.

But when it comes to the question of Israel withdrawing unilaterally from what Beilin calls "the Wild North" — Lebanon — Ezra firmly believes that is the course to take.

A former commander of the General Security Services operations in Lebanon, Ezra is unfazed by predictions of continued attacks from the North. He notes that "there is a difference between [Hizbullah's] shooting [at IDF soldiers] inside Lebanon, and shooting into Israeli territory from Lebanon." The former is more of a temptation.

And he reminds those who fear that Syria will have an interest in harassing Israel as long as there is no peace agreement that "since 1974, Syria hasn't fired a single



Gideon Ezra: "Once Israel is no longer in Lebanon, Hizbullah will have less interest in attacking Israeli territory." (Yossi Zeiger/L.P.A.)

bullet into Israel." "I'm all for reaching an agree-

ment with Syria, but we don't have one now," says Ezra. "I know many people believe that the Syrians will make our lives miserable until there is an agreement. But Syria hasn't done so thus far, and I don't think it will in the future."

"There is a difference between Syria supporting Hizbullah in southern Lebanon (now), and the way Syria will behave when we're not there. The Syrians are only in Lebanon because we are," Ezra points out, adding however that a unilateral withdrawal will only be possible if Israel is free to retaliate inside Lebanese territory, in response to an attack.

Another necessary condition for withdrawal is adequate arrangements for protecting Israeli residents of the north and the South Lebanese Army commanders.

"Here the solution would be to give our SLA allies the right to reside in Israel," says Ezra.

**Michal Yudelman hears two opposing views on the Lebanon quagmire. MK Gideon Ezra is unfazed by predictions of continuing attacks if the IDF pulls out, while Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator for Lebanon, fears those attacks would only intensify**

## Withdrawal is no option

Of course we all want to get out of Lebanon, says Uri Lubrani, but a unilateral withdrawal from the security zone is simply not an option.

"It's all very well to want out, the government coordinator for Lebanese affairs continues. But who will guarantee that Hizbullah's attacks will stop? I'm almost certain they will continue, with even greater intensity."

"Withdrawing unilaterally from Lebanon would leave us without any binding arrangements [working to end] the attacks, and it would mean abandoning the Lebanese residents in the security zone to the grace of heaven and to all those who wish them ill."

Lubrani has no doubt that the attacks on Israel would continue, almost certainly creating the conditions that would force Israel to invade Lebanon again — this time under far worse conditions, with much larger forces, and facing an actively hostile local population.

"The whole messy story would begin all over again," Lubrani says.

He cites the widely held view that the Syrians are behind Hizbullah, adding, "Hizbullah is no less inspired by Iran — and that's a factor we cannot control."

Among those who advocate unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon



Uri Lubrani: "Of course everyone wants out... but who will guarantee that Hizbullah's attacks will stop?" (Nitzan Shorer)

some, like MK Yossi Beilin, also want Israel to part company with the South Lebanese Army.

"But who will take its place?" Lubrani asks. "Only the IDF can. We cannot double the number of our soldiers in the security zone. The public wouldn't stand for it."

What about those who say the security zone should be widened in order to put Israel's northern settlements out of range of the Hizbullah's Katyusha rockets?

Lubrani is against it.

"It would mean a significant increase in the Shi'ite population under our control, creating an even broader front against us," he says.

One thing is clear to Lubrani: Israel will not be able to get out of Lebanon without Syrian involvement. For him, the only possible interim solution, in the absence of a comprehensive peace treaty, is one that confines itself to security arrangements. And a treaty "may prove highly complex and difficult to achieve — maybe even impossible," he says.

He sums up: "Our mission is to make every effort to prevent further deterioration, to explore every channel that can lead to solutions, even if they are only interim ones."

In this context, Lubrani emphasizes that Israel continues in its full support of the understandings reached following the Grapes of Wrath operation.

It regards the monitoring group established to deal with complaints by the parties as a very important vehicle for de-escalating and reducing tension.

The group's record so far has been very positive, and Lubrani hopes that, the complexity of the situation notwithstanding, it will continue its good work.

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A highlight of the extensive silver section is a pair of highly important silver Torah finials, Amsterdam, 1770s, estimate \$35,000-50,000. Among the paintings is an oil by Reuven Rubin, *Pomegranates On My Window*, Israel, 1960s, estimate \$18,000-28,000.

Elissa S. Shay, Phillips' Judaica specialist, will conduct a tour of the exhibition on Tuesday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m. An illustrated catalogue may be ordered by calling (212) 570-4830. All are welcome.

- Communicated -



# Cultural split in the camp

The rector of Bar-Ilan University has earned fierce condemnation in some quarters and applause in others for his critique of the 'haredization' of national-religious education. **Allison Kaplan Sommer** asked what prompted him to speak out.

Professor Yehuda Friedlander has no regrets. Even as the poison arrows are being flung in his direction from angry politicians, the rector of Bar-Ilan University says that he staunchly "stands by every word" of his harsh public criticism of what he sees as the "haredization" of national-religious education.

If he is sorry about anything, it is, he says, the fact that he took so long to speak up. Friedlander, 58, a father of five and grandfather of nine, says that he fears not only for the future of Bar-Ilan but for the values of enlightened national-religious culture that it represents.

"I feel the pain of what is going on in religious Zionism today," said Friedlander this week from

his home in Jerusalem. "If I am part of what is happening, it is because I didn't open my mouth earlier. We gave in for many years to these influences, and now the time has come to speak up."

Hence, the Hebrew literature professor's provocative remarks last week in the Hebrew daily *Yediot Aharanot*. Friedlander offered a detailed critique of what he saw as increasing corruption and extremism in haredi society and bemoaned their growing influence on the national-religious camp, particularly in the field of education (see box).

The reaction to his comments from haredi leadership has been predictably fierce. Furious over the remarks, Deputy Housing

Minister Meir Porush (United Torah Judaism) has called on the 140 faculty members who make up the Bar-Ilan senate, which elected Friedlander rector, to remove him from his position, tagging him an "inciter, a polarizing force, and full of hatred for portions of society."

He urged the senate to "make the brave and necessary decision" to reject a man who has "disqualified himself from the profession of education."

Shas leader Aryeh Deri called the Bar-Ilan rector "shameful," and Moshe Gafni (UTJ) said that Friedlander "is half Reform and wants to turn Judaism into a mockery."

Even in Friedlander's national-religious camp, he was criticized, with Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi of the National Religious Party pegging him a dweller in an ivory tower "who is out of touch with reality."



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## What Friedlander said

The national-religious camp has not trained enough educators and therefore is turning to haredim to teach in its schools, and these extremist forces, contends Prof. Yehuda Friedlander, are becoming "a Trojan horse which will destroy us from within," he said in an interview with the Hebrew daily *Yediot Aharanot* last week.

Specifically, Friedlander objects to the increased focus in national-religious education on extreme modesty — ranging from the dress code for girls from elementary-school age, measuring their skirts and making sure their legs are covered with stockings — to increased separation of the sexes. He attributes these changes to the haredi "obsession" and ever-stricter dictates from their leaders.

"The haredim are so obsessed with separating the sexes that soon they'll figure out a way to put a *meitza* between boys and girls when they are in the womb,"

he said.

The relentless focus on intimate personal habits and lifestyles by the haredim, he says, "not only does not contribute to promoting modesty but has become a perversion."

Other effects of religious extremism include more "messianism and mysticism and not the real study of Torah" in national-religious schools, as well as an increased tendency to discourage participation in the life of the state. He bemoaned the fact that schools such as the Horev school in Jerusalem now require young women to pledge they will not serve in the IDF before being permitted to study there. He pulled his own children out of Horev, he said, after feeling that they were being taught "gimmickry" there.

Friedlander is upset that increasingly, national-religious schools employ teachers who do not send their own children to the army — or to the very schools they teach in — preferring to edu-

cate their children at stricter haredi institutions. He fears that the products of this type of education and these teachers are soon going to be incapable of the kind of critical thinking necessary for higher learning at universities like Bar-Ilan.

He reserved his harshest words for the intellectual level of students at haredi yeshivot.

In the Diaspora, he said, since the Jewish community had to support itself, only the true geniuses studied Torah full time as adults. Today, he reports, yeshiva heads in Israel tell him, "We'll take anyone, even a dunce, anything to keep them out of the clutches of the IDF."

As a result, Friedlander said, "the level of studies has greatly declined. A new phenomenon has been created in Judaism — the eternal yeshiva student. It used to be that men studied in yeshiva until their wedding, and the moment someone got married

and began raising a family, it was necessary to support that family.

"And who allows things to operate as they do now?" The government treasury, funding the yeshivot, at a budget higher than those which finance institutions of higher learning. And so the yeshivot have become a refuge for do-nothings.

The haredim, he said, are becoming "corrupted" by government money and, with increasingly fancy weddings and bar mitzvas, are "getting as materialistic as anyone else."

He also spoke out in favor of "live and let live" pluralism toward those who are not Orthodox — including the creation of an area at the Western Wall where men and women may pray together, and the inclusion of women and non-Orthodox on religious councils. In addition, he called the proposed conversion law "a disaster."

— A.K.S.

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Meir Ronnen  
The Jerusalem Post

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lence in the debate over the making-up of the religious councils. I felt that if I remain silent, I am somehow abetting that violence."

Despite the expected condemnation from politicians, Friedlander says he is pleased with the "faxes, telephone calls, personal visits from rabbis, public figures close to politics, and intellectuals within the secular camps and the national-religious camps. With only a few exceptions, they were warm and encouraging."

Several faculty members at Bar-Ilan applauded Friedlander. Dr. Yehudit Auerbach, head of the division of journalism and communication studies at Bar-Ilan, praised the rector's decision to take a public stand.

"I, too, believe the time has come for the national-religious camp to speak out and make a distinction between their community and a haredi community that doesn't participate in the life of the state," she said. "In the secular public at large, the lines are getting blurred, and we have all sim-

ple become 'those religious' who want to control their lives and take over the state."

"I don't want to be in the same category as those who create violence at the Wall, who don't send their sons to the army as I have. I'm glad someone of Professor Friedlander's stature has made that clear."

Prof. Charles Liebman, whose work in the Bar-Ilan political science department focuses on religion and politics, said that Friedlander's remarks reflect a split that is deepening within the national-religious camp between those who find the move toward an increasingly strict, haredi-style life desirable, and those who want to remain an active part of the larger society.

"It is important to see his remarks not as anti-haredi, but as opposing a tendency within religious Zionism to become haredi. I think what really upsets Professor Friedlander is that the lines are becoming indistinguishable, and I would certainly agree with him in that regard."

"It is very appropriate for someone from Bar-Ilan University to speak what is on his mind and on the minds of other people — it may not be wise for him politically, but it is to his credit that he didn't take that into account," Liebman said.

"I know there are others at Bar-Ilan who would disagree with me and with Professor Friedlander. If the current atmosphere of haredization in the religious Zionist community continues, an institution like Bar-Ilan cannot function freely."

"As I see it, Bar-Ilan has one of two options. It can cave in and become part of this process — and I am sure there are people at Bar-Ilan who would like that to happen, to

**Shas leader Aryeh Deri called Friedlander 'shameful.' Moshe Gafni (UTJ) said he 'is half Reform and wants to turn Judaism into a mockery.'**

ing to Bar-Ilan: he was infected with mystic messianic thrills that created a virus. I want to cleanse the body of Bar-Ilan of this virus."

Hence, Friedlander said, it is working to fight for "the creation of a proper atmosphere" inside the university.

"We are developing special courses to try to teach the student not simply to listen, be passive, and take notes but to challenge — we want more workshops, more seminars. When screening candidates for study, we need to explain to them what a university is, the character of the institution: that it is not a community center, it is not a *shitebo* or a *shetl*... a university is not a yeshiva, and anyone who does not understand that should not come to study here."

Friedlander's immediate superior, the university president, was abroad when the interview was published and did not voice an opinion on the controversy. But faculty members at Bar-Ilan scoff at the idea that demands such as Porush's for Friedlander's dismissal will be taken seriously by the university senate.

Dr. Shmuel Sander, a political science professor at Bar-Ilan, predicts the haredi attacks will, if anything, boomerang into increased support for Friedlander.

"Professor Friedlander is already extremely well liked and one of the personalities most closely identified with Bar-Ilan University," Sander said. "Porush's comment was meaningless. Bar-Ilan University never had any legitimacy in the eyes of the haredim anyway — they have no right to intervene in the life of an institution they have never accepted."

Drive Carefully



## MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

It's that time of year again. Katyushas are whistling above Kiryat Shmona, Galileans take shelter under their homes, and politicians — both local and national — are out to scavenge the spoils of war.

And so, Ma'alot mayor Shlomo Buhbut calls on all settlements along the northern border to launch a protest strike; Kiryat Shmona mayor Prosper Azran boycotts an "emergency meeting" called by Foreign Minister David Levy, with "confederation line" settlements; Levy, for his part, uses the highly visible and noncommittal circumstances to "call on the government" — i.e., on himself — to reverse its year-old decision to slash capital investment aid; Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai promises the north-erners to raise the issue of their plight in the Cabinet; Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon shows up south of Metulla, where he promises to build a new neighborhood and lavish \$80,000 subsidies on its

prospective dwellers; and Interior Minister Eli Suissa emerges in Nahariya "in the wake of the hostilities," while local officials say the visit had been planned ahead of this week's events.

Yet alas, all the underlying assumptions of these usual suspects — namely, that the North's is a riskier life, that more taxpayer money would alleviate its plight, and that crying *gevul* against the backdrop of a roofless house would open middle-Israel's pockets — are unfounded.

The first fallacy, namely that border-side life is more dangerous, originates in the 1950s — when *fedayin* terrorists routinely raided the frontier — and ends in the recent years' recurrent explosions anywhere between an Afula bus stop and a Tel Aviv coffee shop.

Whether foolishly or cunningly, Azran and Buhbut et al. fail to mention that in this decade, scores upon scores of Israelis were killed, maimed and bereaved near places as "safe" as the Ramat Gan diamond exchange and the Hadera bus station.

It may be very unpleasant to raise this question, but one must wonder what was, at the same time, the Katyushas' toll? Why should the lesser menace to civilian life up north be treated with greater alarm — not to mention panic — than the far more

potent threat to bus riders, market shoppers and restaurant patrons elsewhere?

Still, these scathing facts have yet to disrupt the ebb and flow of the roughly semi-annual ritual whereby northern politicians groan, cabinet ministers moan, and the middle class is asked to foot the bills of additional budgets for yet more ill-conceived economics.

Arch-populist David Levy's suggestion, to hand out state funds to northern factories, has time and again proved itself ill advised. As noted by the state comptroller in her last annual report, the jobs and exports which such lavishly aided enterprises initially generate ultimately tend to peter out.

Sharon's and Mordechai's attitudes — a state-sponsored neighborhood here, an expanded shelter-upgrade budget there — are more of the same as Levy's. None of these would bring solace to the North, whose predicament — like the South's — is not safety but solitude.

INDEED, DURING its first half century, Israel has defined the term "frontier" — *sfar* — according to its proximity to the enemy. It's time we redefined it along the lines that other major immigration countries have, namely according to a region's distance from the national economy's heartbeat. Not only would such a redefinition lead us

beyond the Katyusha-targeted Kiryat Shmona-Nahariya range to the unbombarded, but equally destitute, Yeroham-Kiryat Gat sphere, but the real difference would be in the policy goals which that changed outlook would dictate.

Remoteness is not a divine predestination, whether for a region or for its inhabitants. Historian Frederick Jackson Turner earned his fame when he published — in 1896 — his thesis in which he argued that America's formative period had ended, since according to statistical definitions, the US no longer had a "frontier."

In fact, the American frontier was conquered and shaped by pioneers who enjoyed minimal — if any — state aid; all they needed was a railway and freedom.

We too don't need more than that.

Any place in Israel can be economically, and therefore also socially, linked to the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem-Haifa triangle. If Kiryat Shmona had a fast train to Haifa, it would have developed with that port city's elaborate industrial base the same kind of commuter relationship which, say, Philadelphia and Baltimore have; the distance between each of these pairs is similar.

Tragically, the dwellers of Israel's border towns are often either recently arrived immigrants or descendants of immi-

grants who were involuntarily dumped there in the 1950s by short-sighted governments who failed to understand the power of private enterprise.

Since then, both local dwellers and distant officials have been perceiving the Israeli frontier as a punishment zone, where a collective beggar-status is a foregone attribute. In such a setting, waiting passively for someone else to come and solve one's problems — whether in setting up a business or in maintaining a bomb shelter — is naturally prone to become tradition, habit and rule.

Now, what the assorted Azrans, Sharons, Buhbuts, Levys and Mordechais are proposing is to perpetuate the North's retardation by thrusting on an already heavily taxed middle class the additional burden of funding patently ineffective programs which would ostensibly push people to the periphery and create for them artificial employment.

To be truly reinvented, the periphery must be plucked from the claws of the lavishly salaried, professional *mishkenim* who currently lead its politics, and be placed, instead, in the hands of Israel's self-confident, enterprising middle classes.

For them, the frontier would not be a subject of self-pity, despair and disenchantment but an object of reclamation, vision and hope.

## Dry Bones



## SHABBAT SHALOM



Parshat Ekev

By NICHOLAS RISKIN

'All the commandment which I command you this day shall you observe to do, that you may live and multiply.' (Deut. 8:1)

When I was the rabbi at Lincoln Square Synagogue in New York, the "613 Club" was a sarcastic reference to individuals who professed to keep all 613 commandments — except for the one pertaining to sexual morality! In the modern world, we often find a split between those who "major" in ritual law but cut corners in ethics, and those who wouldn't dream of taking an unjustified dime from a customer but would never be caught within shouting distance of a synagogue.

What are we to make of these different approaches?

The above verse from this week's portion *Ekev* provides us with some insight. After all, says the holy Ohr Hachaim (Rabbi Haim ibn Attar, 1696-1743), this verse cannot merely be a repeat of the portion's opening admonition, wherein the Israelites are told to "hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, then the Lord your God shall keep with you the covenant."

I'd like to suggest two interpretations which, at first glance, seem to be totally contradictory.

First, the Ohr Hachaim explains that the verse teaches an important concept regarding the observance of commandments. "All the commandment" (*kol hamitzva*) appears in the singular form, while the rest of the verse "shall you observe them to do, that you may live and multiply" is in the plural (*rishmarun la asot lema'an tithyun v'rivivem*).

What this signifies, he suggests, is that every single commandment is intimately connected to the rest. The Torah is not a "menu of options."

Further evidence for this idea is demonstrated by the fact that the Sages divide the 613 commandments into 248 positive (corresponding to the 248 bodily organs) and 365 negative (corresponding to the 365 bodily sinews). After all, a wise individual understands that he must take care of his entire organism if he desires physical well-being. So, too, does it border on spiritual blindness to dramatize one mitzva while ignoring another.

From this perspective, the verse is saying that once we overlook certain commandments, we are leaving ourselves exposed to spiritual viruses which may prove lethal to our souls.

However, this interlocking theory can lead an individual to conclude that Judaism is an "all-or-nothing" proposition — if one cannot observe every detail of the Sabbath laws or cannot keep them for the full 25 hours, then one might as well throw in the towel regarding kosher food and sexual morality as well. After all, it would be wrong to be a hypocrite!

Let it be clearly understood that hypocrisy does not apply to an individual who keeps some rules but not all of them all of the

## A multitude of mitzvot

time; such a person is merely being inconsistent, and — as Matthew Arnold observed — the only truly consistent person is one who is dead. Only if one claims to be 100% when one is not, is one a hypocrite. And would any logical individual claim that if someone is guilty of an occasional white lie, he should forget about truth and morality in all his interpersonal relationships?

Much the opposite: He should strive for greater consistency in his actions.

And perhaps this is the real meaning of the singular form with which our verse opens: "All the commandment shall you observe to do" — if you can't keep all the commands, at least keep one!

I know a family in Efrat, completely devoted to the Torah, who started out in a small town in midwestern America. When I marvel at how a family from such a non-Jewish environment could have grown up with such Jewish commitment, I was told the even stranger fact that their father, who had studied in a Polish yeshiva, had been forced to work on Shabbat in order to keep his job in the Midwest (not an uncommon situation in the early 1900s). Nevertheless, the family attended synagogue on Friday evening and enjoyed a festive meal with *kiddush*, *zimrot*, and Torah interpretations.

On Saturday morning their father would get up at sunrise and pray alone and then, before leaving for work, would kiss his family with tears streaming down his cheeks, blessing them with the wish that they would never have to desecrate the holy Shabbat. Upon his return, he would share the third Sabbath meal with them and, as a family, they would chant the havdala prayer at the conclusion of the day.

Of course, we could judge the father harshly and cry out that he was a hypocrite. And indeed, he had many counterparts all over America who, because they felt forced to work on the Sabbath, allowed almost every other traditional Jewish observance to lapse — no Friday night, no festivals, no succa, no cetrog, no family purity.

Is there a way to reconcile the "all-or-nothing" approach with the philosophy that "every little bit counts"?

It seems to me that when it comes to one's own behavior, a person should recognize that our tradition is a traditional-historical continuum which has enabled us to live and develop — despite exile, persecution and pogroms — for over 4,000 years. After all, who can say which aspect of this tradition was most responsible for our remarkable continuity?

But at the same time, when it comes to judging other people's observance, we must understand the value of each commandment independently. And who knows? Perhaps the real meaning of the verse is that one must not only multiply one's progeny but multiply one's observances.

Shabbat Shalom

## Northern exposure

## My hates, your hates

which men and women commingled. The Conservatives, in turn, accused the haredim of provocation in interfering with the service by their catcalls and booing.

The excuse the police gave for expelling the Conservatives from the area was a lame and absurd one. The "explanation" of Jerusalem district police chief, Cmdr. Ya'ir Yitzhaki, suggested that the police consider themselves clairvoyant and prescient: "There were thousands of worshippers present, and it looked as though [the Conservatives] were offended." He also "said the police foresaw the possibility that the Conservative group would get hurt, and the inevitable conclusion was to expel them to ensure their safety" (*The Jerusalem Post*, August 13, page 4, and August 12, front page).

As Conservative spokespersons themselves attested, there was no physical violence or threat of any by the haredim hecklers. Hence, there were no grounds for the police to "foresee" it, and, as a result, perpetrate it, do so in an impetuous, violent manner.

But neither is the Conservative group innocent of provocation. It is no doubt true, as several of the movement's spokespersons point out, that over the years Conservative groups have held mixed services at the rear of the Western Wall compound, or in the outer area, more than 100 times unopposed. Indeed, many Orthodox groups, too, have done so over the years, as they used to on the crowded roof of "King David's Tomb" on Mount Zion between 1948 and 1967, when the Jordanian occupiers, in violation of the armistice agreement, denied Jews access to the Jewish holy places in eastern Jerusalem.

It is probably also true, however, that previously the Conservative groups, and certainly the others, did not do so demonstratively, provocatively, as the former did this past Tisha Be'av Eve. How else would you describe the former's prior announcement in the press, which,

among other things, ensured that the news media would be well represented at the happening?

How else would you describe the assertion by the Israel director of the movement's United Synagogue, Rabbi Jim Lebeau, about the demonstrative nature of the happening? In a comment containing inner contradictions Lebeau wrote: "The decision to sponsor an organized service was not made as a provocation. Our leaders felt the need to demonstrate our presence in Israel and our right to worship..."

How is something done out of "a need to demonstrate" not a provocation? Lebeau's Reform counterpart, Rabbi David Forman, director of Israel Programs of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and spokesperson of the Israeli Rabbis for Human Rights group and certainly not of our Orthodox establishment, called it "the height of hutzpa to pick Tisha Be'av Eve, when the Western Wall Plaza would be packed, to hold a demonstration" (*The Jerusalem Post*, August 13).

Rabbi Lebeau believes that "Israel needs Conservative Judaism."

The best way to demonstrate the accuracy of that assessment is for the movement to conduct activities of such a creative and spiritually and intellectually fulfilling nature that will draw masses of Israelis.

Hence this is also the way for the movement to gain power here, augmented by implementation of Lebeau's declaration that "We must bring more and more Conservative Jews to Israel."

The same applies to our Orthodox. They will not win ascendancy over the Jewish world through restrictive laws, police force, and imprecations. They will have a chance to prevail by being a beautiful embodiment of Torah, and by masses of them coming home to Israel from the Diaspora.

(Thanks to Douglas Greener of Jerusalem for the text of a discussion

among members of the Conservative movement's Masorti Internet Discussion Group.)

JERUSALEM POLICE chief Yitzhaki's clairvoyance and prescience resemble those of some journalists who give us unsubstantiated "inside" accounts of what "the people" feel or think.

For example, *Newsweek* writer Joseph Contreras recently presumed to enter the minds and souls of the Arabs in general and of Yasser Arafat and his Palestinians in particular. He told his readers about Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's alleged indifference to "Arab concerns about dignity, honor and face-saving" and his "politics of humiliation."

According to Contreras and his apparently approving editors, "It is Netanyahu's style and tone, as much as his policies, that have poisoned Israel's relations with the Palestinians and the Arab world at large."

Not the poison in those relations is the product of the Arafatians' flagrant reluctance, except under pressure, to fulfill written undertakings.

This is not to mention the refusal of most Arab-Muslim, Palestinian-Christian and Palestinian-secular leaders and spokespersons to accept the Jewish people, in general, and Israel, in particular, as entitled to sovereignty, and the refusal of some Arab leaders to go beyond the narrow literalness of their written undertakings.

And the way for the Arafatians to avoid alleged humiliation at being called to task for their gross violations of the Oslo Accords is by starting to religiously fulfill their undertakings. Doing so will also do wonders for their dignity, honor and face.

(Thanks to Joshua Cypess of New York and my colleague Eli Groner for the Contreras quotation.)

E-mail comments to moshe@jpost.co.il. Please include home address.

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# Siso speaks out – in English

Kiryat Yam Mayor Shmuel Siso, the newly appointed consul-general in New York, rejects claims he lacks the necessary skills for the job, Liat Collins reports

Most New York Jews would have a hard time finding Kiryat Yam on a map of Israel, admits Shmuel Siso, mayor of the coastal town located between Haifa and Acre. But that, he says, is no reason not to appoint him Israel's consul-general in the Big Apple.

The High Court of Justice dismissed an appeal yesterday by the Movement for Quality Government that sought to bar Siso from the post.

"This is a purely political appointment of a person who lacks the relevant qualifications for one of the most important and sensitive diplomatic positions," the movement said, in its petition.

Siso was nominated for the post by Foreign Minister David Levy in March, but the appointment was approved only earlier this month. He has spent recent months deflecting criticism that he does not know enough English and is not sufficiently familiar with the ways of US Jewry to serve in New York.

"GO AHEAD and interview me in English. That way you can prove for yourself that I know it," he says.

His English is accented but certainly no worse than many other non-native speakers working in the diplomatic corps or in politics.

"Let's just say that you don't graduate from the Hebrew University's Law School without knowing some English," he says, "But people tend to ignore the fact that I am actually a qualified lawyer."

As he opens up he also admits to having learned some English during the six months he spent in the US in the early 1970s.

"It was the end of the flower-power period and I traveled from coast-to-coast. I had a Jewish

**"Let's just say that you don't graduate from the Hebrew University's Law School without knowing some English," Siso says, 'but people tend to ignore the fact that I am actually a qualified lawyer.'**

American girlfriend," he notes, adding, "Should you write that?"

In the end, however, most of the interview was conducted in Hebrew.

THE QUESTION of Siso's English – which he admits has

been "insulting as well as hurtful" – was first publicly raised in March by *New York Jewish Week* editor and publisher Gary Rosenblatt.

"Is it too much to ask for Israeli representatives here who can speak fluent English and whose credentials extend further than a political friendship with [Foreign Minister] David Levy?" Rosenblatt asked of the choice to replace Colette Avital.

"Several journalists seemed to have forgotten the basic ethics and didn't ask me directly if I know English or not," says Siso, 46. "Many also forget to mention I have an academic degree, ran my own successful law practice, and was reelected to a second term as mayor by a huge majority [81%]."

Though a member of the Likud, he had run backed by a joint Labor-Likud list. "That also shows something about me," he says.

ROSENBLATT'S COLUMN, titled "Missing Colette Already," suggested the choice of Moroccan-born Siso for the New York position might indicate that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is paying only lip ser-

vice to his professed interest in improving relations with US and Diaspora Jewry.

Some felt the column implied that US Jewry does not feel a Sephardi can represent Israel abroad as well as an Ashkenazi.

**Last year, he was the guest of the US State Department, participating in a program for promising leaders – which he says is one of the reasons he was offered the consular position.**

Romanian-born Avital has been feted in a series of farewell tributes, which ignored the bitterness she evoked among those opposed to the Oslo Accords.

"I suspect the source of the problem is a combination of factors," he says. "I think it has something to do with coming from a periphery town few have heard of

to such a desirable position."

He is reluctant to say that Sephardi-Ashkenazi tensions play a role but admits: "Many people do say that."

Siso jokes that, like many anti-semites claim they have Jewish friends, he can claim to have an Ashkenazi wife, Naomi, born in Argentina to Russian-born parents.

"I don't know how you would define my children," quips the father of four. "It's a pity this issue is raised – deliberately or unintentionally – after 50 years of the state. I prefer to think that this is not the reason and it is simply ignorance and a combination of other things which happen to have fallen on me."

He suggests, by implication, that part of it is the struggle between Levy and Netanyahu over the political appointments abroad.

"Perhaps some people are trying to settle scores at my expense."

SISO ARRIVED here at age six in the period of transit camps. I studied here [at Jerusalem's Boyar School] and began helping with immigrant absorption. I think that is the essence of Israel – the People of Israel in the Land of Israel," Siso served in the Engineering Corps, and is a reserve captain in the IDF.

He started his political career as a local councillor in Kiryat Yam in 1978, and met David Levy the first time he ran for mayor in 1983. Although he did not get elected, the relationship with Levy continued, based on their mutual interest in social issues. Siso was eventually elected mayor in 1989 and started his second term in 1993.

Siso was still happier talking about local affairs than international issues before the court case had passed, but he notes he is aware his appointment comes at a low point in relations between Israel and US Jewry caused by the preliminary passage of the conversion bill.

"I can only pray – use the word 'pray' not 'hope,'" he says in English – "that the matter will be resolved by some sort of compromise, because otherwise I predict a serious crisis with US Jewry."

He has met with leaders of non-Orthodox communities both in Israel and from the US.

"I'm aware of the problems. I think this is the most serious crisis we have had with a Jewish community outside of Israel and I hope we can solve it without causing an unnecessary rift."

Siso describes himself as "traditional" and says he is guided by a "live and let live" philosophy. Kiryat Yam, he says, has 40 synagogues but does not close streets on Shabbat – "and the beach is also open." He sums up his approach by quoting that the "paths of the Torah are the paths of peace."

ABSORPTION OF immigrants has caused Kiryat Yam's population to jump from 30,000 to nearly 50,000 in recent years. "We have taken in immigrants from all over – Russia and Ethiopia; the US and South Africa," he says.

Siso is justifiably proud of the town's achievements in absorption and growth.

"It's not New York, but it has a role in absorbing immigrants here which is important," he says. "And New York is the biggest city in the world absorbing immigrants."

His town has won awards for significantly raising the percentage of pupils matriculating and for improving the environment. He has been successful at raising funds for public projects and is particularly proud of the town's music and arts conservatory, the technological incubator and the technological college established alongside the high school.

As consul he feels he will still play a role in encouraging and facilitating aliyah. "Every Jew says: 'Next year in Jerusalem,'" he notes. "One focus will be the Israeli immigrant community. 'It's an issue which must be handled.'"

THE CONSUL-GENERAL in New York handles a wide range of duties. The job includes liaising with the local organized Jewish community and the emigrants, involvement in local Jewish cultural life, working with the press, forging business ties and encouraging investments. It also includes building ties with the local Hispanic and black communities.

In 1992, the Foreign Ministry sent Siso on a lecture tour of the US, where he met with leaders of the Jewish community, administration officials and newspaper editors to talk about the loan guarantees and immigration and absorption. Last year, he was the guest of the US State Department, participating in a program for promising leaders – which he says is one of the reasons he was offered the consular position.

"I think it was natural my name should come up after the relevant person here saw how I behaved and heard the lectures I gave," he says.

## GRAPEVINE Caught napping

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Jerusalemites Alan and Bonnie Cohen, formerly of Los Angeles, are famous in many parts of the world for their incredible hospitality. The Cohens have at least a dozen strangers at every Sabbath table every week and often entertain as many as 30 or 40 people. Two Saturdays ago they hosted WUJS student Greg Sandler from New Jersey without being aware of his presence. Only this week – when he sent them an e-mail thank-you – did they learn that Sandler had been in their house. Participants in Sandler's program were walking around the Old City walls overlooking the Cohens' home when their guide mentioned that the couple

media world would be prepared to honor that appeal, there are strong doubts that the request was sincere. Pointing to the extensive print media coverage of the Netanyahu family vacation and bearing in mind how closely surrounded the family is by security guards, Israel Broadcasting Authority Director-General Moti Kirschenson queries how the photographers could have obtained some of those intimate shots without being invited into the Netanyahu compound.

WHEN over 100 friends of Yechezkel and BatSheva Mink showed up at the Sheraton Plaza hotel to celebrate his 70th birthday, they didn't expect to come away with a gift. But the occasion was also a launch party for Yechezkel Mink's autobiography, *How a Jewish Scrapper Recycled His Life*. Guests were each presented with the book, published by Gefen Press. It tells the story of Mink's successful career as a scrap merchant in New York and his inability to replicate that success here, when he and his wife, currently head gardener in the Botanical Gardens at the Hebrew University's Givat Ram campus, came on aliyah 21 years ago. Mink set up the Israel Recycling Company, which folded after three years. He then spent a two-year stint in Yamit, which is no longer on the map, then worked briefly for Bank Leumi, after which he decided to devote himself to volunteer activities by establishing the Old City Free Loan Association. Some of its contributors were on hand to celebrate both his birthday and his book. Guests from abroad included New York Supreme Court Judge Stanley Kaplan-Gartenstein and politician Peter Deutsch of Florida. BatSheva Mink will be co-writing a new gardening column in the *Jerusalem Post* starting Wednesday.



Yermi Kaplan: tying the knot

SINGER Yermi Kaplan managed to sandwich his marriage to Ravital Bar-Oz in between singing engagements. Hopefully, his voice is in better shape than his foot, which failed at the first attempt to break the glass under the bridal canopy. One of the perks of having a wedding in which the guest-list is top heavy with stars from the entertainment industry is that some of them get up and perform gratis. Amongst the entertainers present at the Amazonas Club at the port of Tel Aviv for the Tel Aviv Bar-Oz union were Aviv Gefen, Ahinoam Nini, Assaf Amdurski and Rami Kleinstain.



Anthony Quinn: Zorba wife beater? (U.R.P.A.)

ENTERTAINERS also came in large numbers to the Tuxedo Hall in Tel Aviv to bestow good wishes on comedians Moti Giladi and Osnat Vishnitski, he a widower, she a divorcee, who tied the knot on Tu Be'av. To prove his stamina, Giladi, 50, deftly lifted his 35-year-old bride in his arms in an over-the-threshold gesture. Apart from the fact that they're obviously very much in love, they make each other laugh a lot.

NOT SO long ago, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appealed to the media to desist from intruding on the privacy of his children. While many in the

LEGENDARY screen giant and two-time Oscar winner Anthony Quinn, 81, is being sued for divorce by his second wife, Yolanda, who is demanding an \$80 million settlement. The couple have been living apart for five years – since Quinn took off with his secretary, who is 48 years his junior, and with whom he has two children, aged four and one. The virile actor was apparently a violent father to his older children. One of his sons, Danny, 33, claims in an interview with the Italian weekly *Oggi* that Quinn was a wife beater and physically abusive to his children. It doesn't quite gel with his immortal Zorba image.

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**Thursday Sept. 4**

**ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY**

In July 1999, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitaller Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Cenotaph - little Italy in the Holy Land - the Templars Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more.

NIS 150

Tour guide: Danny Syon

**Thursday Sept. 11**

**A DAY ON THE KIBBUTZ**

Things have changed since they used to dance the Hora all night long, after a day in the fields. We'll spend the whole day with the kibbutzniks of Ma'agan Michael and Sdot Yam. We'll hear about their history, traditions, successes and failures, the problems and the future. We'll visit the many different sectors of the Kibbutz. Including lunch.

NIS 195

Tour guide: Martin ben Moreh

**Wednesday Sept. 17**

**IN ISRAEL'S GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND**

Environmental awareness is pretty low in Israel. This tour, the first of its kind, will take you to Hiriya, Tel Aviv's great garbage mountain, the Shafdan recycling center, the Yarkon River - now being cleaned and rejuvenated - and we'll meet Greenpeace activists. Concerned? A trip not to be missed.

NIS 160

Tour guide: Dany Moxenstern

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. 10% discount when you book all three tours. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

**Reservations and further information:**

**SHORASHIM**, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074. Tel. 02-566-6231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.



### CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

1 Judge, you say, sad about traitor (5)

4 Where Italians eat out of doors? (8)

10 Emergency phone for stolen stock of goods? (3,4)

11 Old lady caught by ax becomes a beggar? (7)

12 One making a mark aloft (4)

13 Girl to transport couch (5)

14 Tallest antelope makes dash (4)

17 Make comparatively poor effort to get at contents of lorry? (3,3,4,4)

19 Put on a strange diet? For Adam, it was an apple (9,5)

22 Successfully manage one end of telescope (4)

23 Pattern of fungus? (5)

**DOWN**

1 Boy's all spit and polish—that's England (4,4)

2 Tried to move to US city (7)

3 Toss coin in error (4)

5 Tolerant philosophy confounded all evident evil (4,3,3,4)

6 Wrong gear for fashion (4)

### SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Shandy, 4 Layer, 8 Aisle, 9 Illness, 10 Counsel, 11 Eden, 12 Err, 14 Dais, 15 Klan, 16 Rud, 21 Bone, 23 Kicked, 25 Advance, 26 Vocal, 27 Berie, 28 Friend.

DOWN: 1 Scarce, 2 Antenna, 3 Decrease, 4 Loll, 5 Field, 6 Basal, 7 Aisle, 13 Benivon, 18 Article, 19 Urbane, 19 Deter, 28 Added, 28 Sever, 24 Once.

### L'expression personnelle

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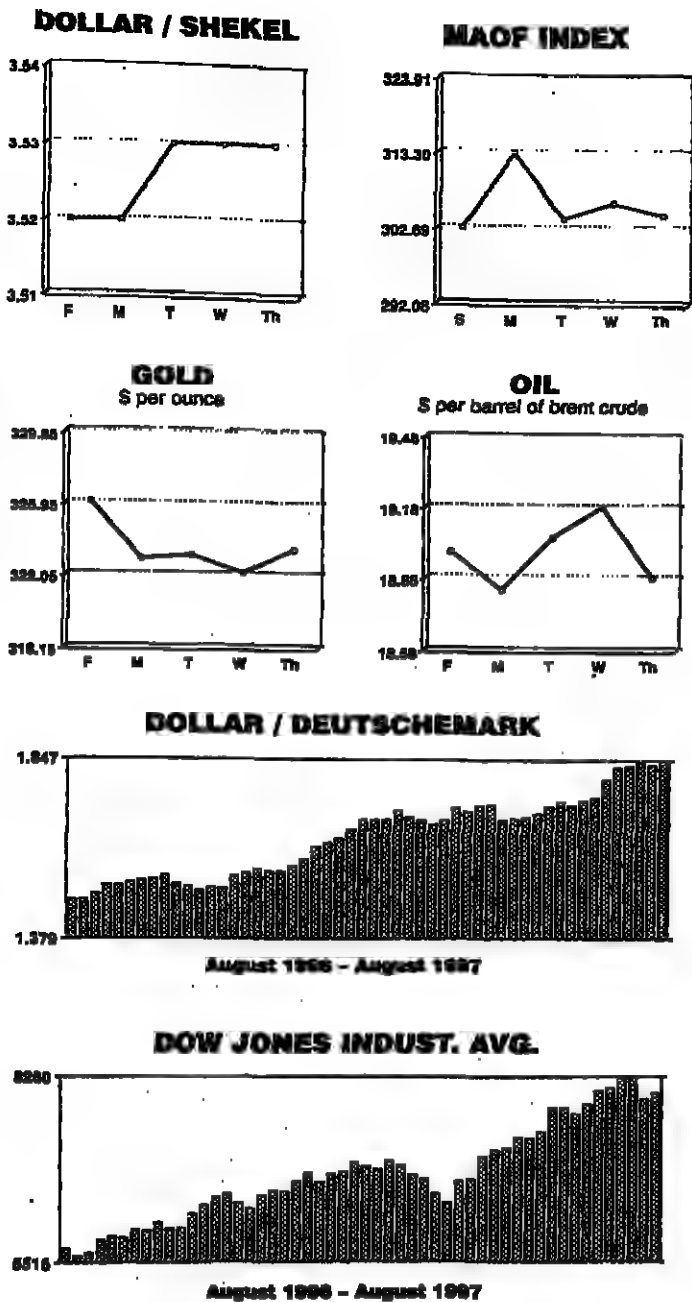


Friday,  
August 22, 1997

13

## MARKETS

in brief



### Claridge seeks gov't OK for Koor merger

Claridge Israel Ltd. filed a letter of intent with the Antitrust Authority to merge with Koor Industries Ltd., a spokesperson for the company said yesterday. Claridge has not announced what size stake it is seeking to purchase in Koor. Last month, Claridge bought a 10% stake in Koor with an option to buy an additional 10% within 90 days.

Jennifer Friedlin

## Comverse to buy Boston Tech. for \$858m.

Acquisition of major competitor could create 1,000 local jobs

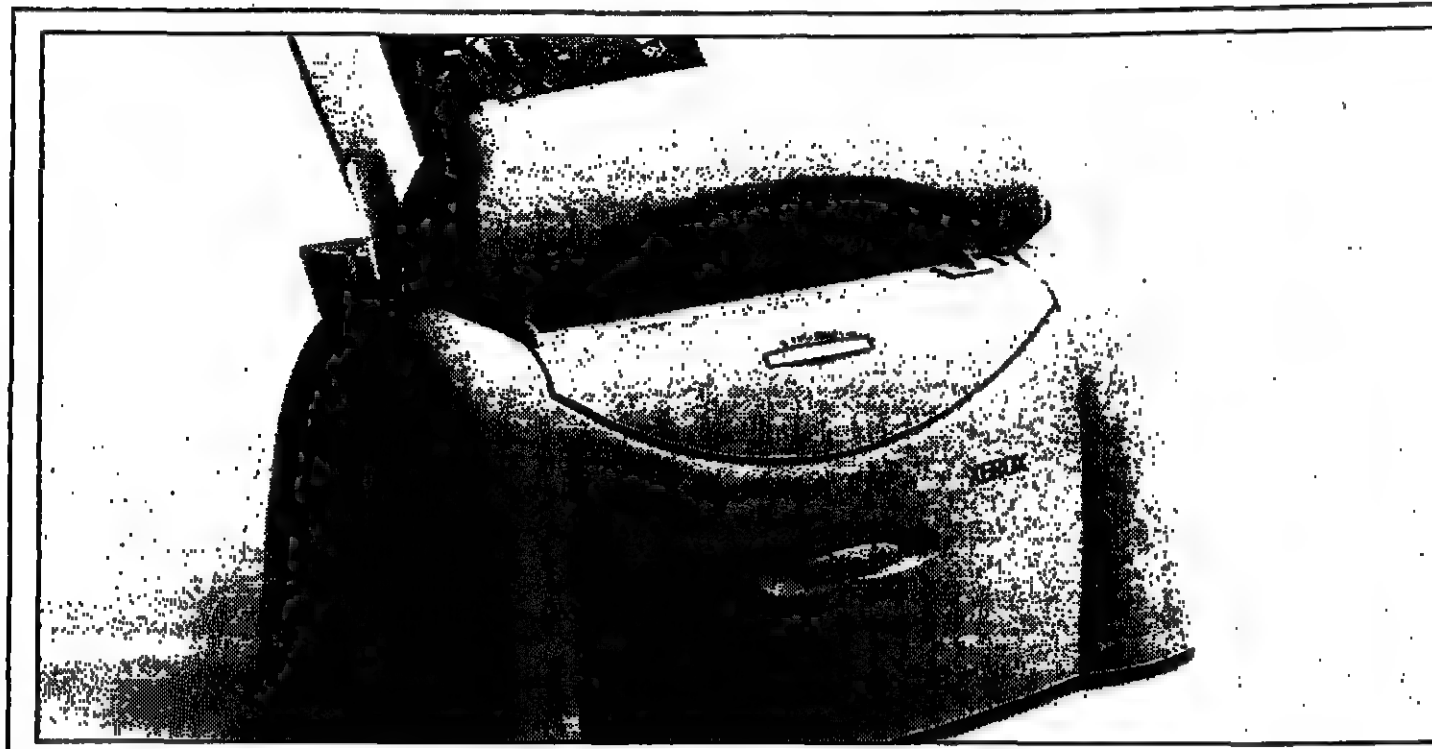
By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Comverse Technology Inc.'s purchase of Boston Technology could create 1,000 new jobs in Israel within the next year, said Itzik Danziger, Chief Operating Officer of Comverse's Network Systems Division. Comverse, a NY-based developer of telecommunications systems, yesterday announced that it acquired one of its main competitors, Boston Technology Inc., for about \$858.5 million in stock. The company currently employs 1,600 people worldwide, 1,200 of them in Israel. Following the merger, the company will grow to 2,600 employees. Comverse's Israeli division, Efrat Future

Technology, is currently growing by 500 employees per year. As a result of the merger that figure could double, Danziger said. "Efrat is in a rapid growth stage," he said. "We expect that it will grow even more, taking on more engineers and technicians and extending the research and development and manufacturing facilities." Prior to the merger, two-thirds of Comverse's activities, in terms of people and revenues, were conducted in Israel. Now, that figure will drop to 50%. Although the company wants to increase local employment opportunities, a shortage of engineers might force Comverse to export some of the jobs abroad, said Danziger, who criticized the government's policy of not granting work permits to foreign software engineers.

"We could increase exports from Israel by \$500,000 for every foreign engineer we employed, but the government won't allow us to bring in software engineers from India or the Philippines," Danziger said. "They permit bringing in agriculture workers from Thailand, but high-tech workers they don't allow in." Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky has said that he expects a shortage of 7,000 engineers by the year 2000. By purchasing Boston Technology, Comverse said it expects its newly acquired sales force to generate greater revenues. "In places like China, where the market is composed of many tens of telephone companies, we didn't have enough sales force to

attack all the potential opportunities," Danziger said. Founded in 1984, Comverse develops computer and telecommunications technologies and services such as voice mail, digital answering services, audio information services and fax mailboxes. Boston Technology supplies systems, software and services to telephone, long distance, cellular, cable and other companies in the telecommunications industry. The company serves half of the world's 20 largest telephone companies in 13 countries. The combined company is expected to have annual revenues of about \$400m. The companies expect to complete the merger by the end of the year.



### Do you copy?

Xerox Corp. unveiled its new \$499 combination printer, copier and scanner. Dubbed the Document HomeCenter, the product is designed for personal computers and is intended for home use.

## ITV, D. Eretz advance in highway bid

Jerusalem Post Staff

Israel Transport Ventures and the Derech Eretz Consortium have advanced to the next stage of the bidding process for the \$600-million-\$700m. contract to build the main section of the Trans-Israel Highway, the central committee of Trans-Israel Highway Ltd. announced yesterday. Blue and White Lanes and the Israel Kingsway Group were eliminated from the bidding process. Israel Transport Ventures consists of Transroute International (France) and the Yona Group, along with Atkinson Middle East (US), Balfour Beatty (UK), Shapir, and Ravid.

The Derech Eretz Consortium is run by Africa Israel Investments Ltd. and Canadian Highways Investment Corp., together with Societe Generale d'Enterprises International (US), COFIRoute (France), Danya-Cobus Construction, Khar Giladi Quarries, Malibu Beatty (UK), and Afon Israel Oil Company. In May, the four consortia officially submitted their bids.

## More currency restrictions lifted

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The Bank of Israel and the Treasury yesterday announced a host of foreign currency reforms that will ease restrictions on individuals, businesses and financial institutions. The reforms will go into effect once the commercial banks and the Justice Ministry have ironed out legal and logistic technicalities, a process that could take up to three months, said Avigdor Levy, a spokesman for the bank. The reforms include:

- Allowing Israelis to purchase foreign currency with shekels and to keep the currency in local accounts. Today, Israelis are only permitted to deposit foreign currency if it was purchased overseas or borrowed. At this stage Israelis will still not be allowed to open bank accounts abroad.
- Granting Israeli residents the ability to pass foreign currency from one account to another.
- Permitting Israelis and foreigners traveling abroad to buy up to \$1,000 in foreign currency at the point of departure. Previously only foreigners were allowed to purchase foreign currency - up to \$500 - upon leaving Israel.
- Removing the ceiling on how much Israeli companies can invest overseas. Currently, Israeli companies can only invest up to 15% of their sales or 25% of their capital in

foreign stocks. • Eliminating all the restrictions imposed on mutual funds that want to invest abroad. Last month, the central bank raised the ceiling from 10% to 50%. • Allowing foreigners the right to convert foreign currency deposited in the Bank of Israel to shekels. • Permitting Israeli banks to purchase shekels from overseas banks in exchange for foreign currency, a step designed to increase shekel trading. The reforms are another stage in the central bank's plan to reduce the number of restrictions imposed on Israelis and to increase the fluidity of shekel trading, said Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel.

"These steps have a clear objective: to provide the citizen of Israel with more freedom to manage his property and to manage his money," he said.

"We have today an Israeli economy that is ready to become integrated in the world economy, and there's no reason why Israeli citizens and businesses should be restrained by restrictions that were created for another framework." Last month, the Bank of Israel raised the ceiling on the percent of assets pension funds could invest abroad from 2% to 5%.

In February the central bank announced another round of reforms, including allowing citizens to deposit more from foreign currency

loans and to buy any foreign securities, either abroad or via a local broker.

## ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.350
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (21.8.97)

CURRENCY	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.7260	3.7882			3.7873
U.S. dollar	3.5042	3.5808	3.44	3.62	3.5400
German mark	1.8883	1.9188	1.85	1.92	1.9120
Pound sterling	3.5221	3.6888	3.49	3.77	3.6363
French franc	0.5805	0.5986	0.55	0.58	0.5570
Japanese yen (100)	2.9728	3.0208	2.92	3.07	3.0038
Dutch florin	1.6770	1.7041	1.64	1.73	1.6882
Swiss franc	2.3028	2.3400	2.28	2.36	2.3278
Swedish krona	0.4348	0.4417	0.42	0.45	0.4400
Norwegian krona	0.4541	0.4615	0.44	0.47	0.4594
Danish krona	0.4855	0.5035	0.48	0.52	0.5019
Finnish mark	0.2534	0.2637	0.25	0.26	0.2542
Canadian dollar	2.5101	2.5557	2.47	2.60	2.5428
Australian dollar	2.8141	2.8553	2.83	2.90	2.8531
S. African rand	0.7458	0.7579	0.77	0.78	0.7411
Belgian franc (10)	0.8148	0.8294	0.83	0.85	0.8248
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8838	2.9289	2.83	2.97	2.9178
Italian lira (1000)	1.8288	1.8706	1.80	2.00	1.8528
Jordanian dinar	4.8391	5.0188	4.87	5.21	4.9580
Egyptian pound	1.0000	1.0800	1.00	1.08	1.0874
Israeli sheqel	3.7213	3.7814			3.7871
Irish punt	5.0819	5.1436	4.97	5.22	5.1188
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2365	2.2726	2.18	2.31	2.2627

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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**THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF MEVASSERET ZION**  
Tender No. 28/97 (preliminary to a subsequent closed tender)  
1. The Mevasseret Zion Local Council invites entrepreneurs and/or legally constituted groups of entrepreneurs to submit bids in a preliminary tender for the construction of a sports and health center (hereafter: sports center) in Mevasseret Zion.  
2. The bids will be accepted within the framework of a preliminary tender which will select the sole candidates eligible to participate in a subsequent closed tender for the construction and long-term operation of a sports center, in keeping with the terms of the contract and the tender which will be purchased by the entrepreneur.  
3. Eligible to take part in the tender are entrepreneurs from Israel and abroad or legally constituted groups of a number of entrepreneurs who possess proven financial ability to erect a sports center on a scope of US\$ 3 (three) million. Bidders must attach to their bids confirmation from a bank of their financial ability.  
4. In the preliminary stage entrepreneurs will be required to submit confirmation of written agreements with contractors (based in the highest professional category for building a sports center with all facilities, and of agreements with sports center operators experienced in running similar institutions in Israel (attaching references and confirmation).  
5. In the preliminary stage, bids must include the fullest information on the professional capabilities and experience of the entrepreneurs, contractors and operators, as well as references. The council reserves the right, even in the preliminary stage, to request any additional details it considers necessary for verifying information on the entrepreneurs, contractors and operators.  
6. The documents for the closed tender and details of the future agreements, the main features of the planned project, nature of the sports center and its location will be available from August 25, 1997, as part of the preliminary tender, which is available at the council offices, during regular office hours, against payment of NIS 5,000, which will not be refunded under any circumstances.  
7. Entrepreneurs purchasing the tender documents who desire additional information from the council members who drafted the tender may arrange an appointment with them through the secretary of the deputy head, Ms. Shuli Levi, Tel. 02-5348504, or 02-5348505.  
8. The council reserves the right to interview the bidders and examine their professional competence and financial means before deciding which entrepreneurs may participate in the closed tender.  
9. Bidders found suitable who comply with all the conditions of the preliminary tender will take part in a closed tender in which all the conditions and details of the project will be set forth. Participants in the tender will be required to deposit an unconditional bank guarantee in favor of the Local Council for the amount of NIS 350,000, which will be forfeited by the successful bidder if he does not sign a contract with the council, as required by the terms of the tender.  
10. Bids for the preliminary tender should be delivered to the council in a sealed envelope and placed in the tender box by October 27, 1997 at 12 noon. Bids submitted after this date will not be considered.  
11. The council does not undertake to accept any bid and reserves the right, within the framework of the preliminary tender, to select the best group of bidders for the closed tender on the basis of financial, public or other considerations.  
ELI MOYAL, Head of the Local Council

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Stocks mixed on concern over Wall Street drop

Mishtanim 294.46 ▼ -0.19% Maof 304.65 ▼ -0.6%

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange was mixed yesterday as investors expressed concern about potential drops in New York markets after the close of the week's trading in Tel Aviv.

The Maof Index of 25 most-traded stocks closed down 0.6 percent to 304.65. The Mishtanim Index of 100 most-traded stocks dropped 0.19%, to 294.46. In the

broader market, three stocks gained for every two that declined. Leading the market lower were Elbit Insurance, slumping 8%, foods producer Osem, down 2.5%, and Bank Leumi, down 2.5%.

Offsetting the drops were Elbit Medical Imaging Ltd., up 5.75%, Nice Systems, up 6.5%, and high-tech holding company Elron Electronic Industries, up 3%.

"There are fears of drops on Wall Street," said Idan Azoulay, a fund manager at Impact Securities. "There is a bad feeling after what happened last week when people returned" and New York had dropped 3%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.3% on Wednesday.

Mark Meiras, managing director at Pacific Mediterranean Securities Ltd., said that investors

are waiting for Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel's decision on September interest rates, due Monday.

"No one is going to be taking significant positions until after Monday," he said.

Azoulay said that investors have accounted for an expected 0.3 percentage point interest rate rise. "Everyone is ready in anticipation of a 0.3% increase," he said.

Elbit Medical, a maker of medical scanners, gained after the company's shares traded in New York yesterday.

Nice Systems, a maker of digital voice-recording systems, went up after the company was rebranded "strong buy" Salomon Brothers and "buy" at Lehman Brothers.

The company's American depositary receipts rose 8.4% in New York on Wednesday. (Bloomberg)

WORLD MARKET ROUNDOUP

Euroshares run out of steam as Dow falters

LONDON (Reuters) - Wall Street's early signal that its three-day recovery may have run out of steam, a cue long-awaited by European dealers, pulled London shares off session highs and dragged a thin Paris market lower on yesterday.

Only the Frankfurt bourse, which closed below New York opened, stuck doggedly to its advance on relief the Bundesbank had left interest rates intact.

In London, Europe's biggest market, profit-taking after the FTSE 100 blue-chip index drifting off the session's best after the Dow Industrial Average slipped 60 points during the first two hours of trade after three days of 100-point-plus gains.

Refusing to top 5,000 again, as it had done for the first time earlier this month, the FTSE back-pedaled from earlier gains achieved partly on the back of Wall Street's rise, and closed 19.6 points higher at 4,978.0.

"There is an increasing number of people thinking that beyond the 5,000 level there is not a great deal of support in the market," one trader said.

Shares in British Telecom provided a boost to the FTSE, rising 28-1/2 points to 412 after the company confirmed it was talking with MCI to re-negotiate economic terms of their planned merger.

Frankfurt's DAX index stuck to its advance throughout the day as expectations were fulfilled that the Bundesbank would not raise interest rates after its first council meeting since the summer break.

In a more pessimistic and holiday-thinned Paris, the leading CAC-40 index slipped on profit-taking following the Bundesbank announcement, and was pulled down further by Wall Street's sluggish opening performance.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended up 103.13 points, or 1.3 percent, at 8,021.23 on Wednesday, having regained over three sessions more than it lost during Friday's 247-point plunge, its second biggest points fall ever.

A surge in technology stocks boosted investors' confidence that the relentless rise in U.S. share prices might still have further to go after its recent correction.

The Dow was back below 8,000, a level it breached for the first time just over a month ago.

Some European investors were encouraged by the US market's resilience, but others were concerned at the speed of the recovery and wary of stumbling on the road ahead.

"People are very wary of Wall Street at the moment, but nevertheless we will respond favorably to it," one London share trader said.

On the currency market, a thinly-veiled threat from the Bundesbank pushed the dollar down to close lower against the mark, a retreat accelerated by the apparent petering out of US stocks.

Although the central bank left interest rates unchanged, it announced a plan to set its key securities repurchase tenders every Tuesday as opposed to every second week - a return to previous policy seen as keeping markets even more on edge about possible rate hikes to defend the mark.

The Bundesbank is playing it very clever. While we don't see them raising rates just yet, they are effectively keeping the threat alive and keeping a lid on dollar/mark," said Arnaud Mares, European strategist at Credit Agricole Indosuez.

Sterling tumbled after the Confederation of British Industry, the country's leading business lobby, said export orders were at five-year lows and forecast a decline in the pound throughout 1998.

days, stocks jumped. But today the dollar fell back and so did stocks," said Peter Canelo, US equity strategist at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

The dollar was hurt by mounting concerns that Germany may be preparing to raise interest rates, which combined to knock bonds into a similar tailspin.

The dollar ended at 1.8360 German marks, down from 1.8558 marks in late New York trading Wednesday.

The Treasury's key 30-year bond fell 27/32, or \$8.44 on a \$1,000 bond, which raised its yield to 6.61% from Wednesday's close of 6.54%.

Bond prices and yields move in opposite directions.

Among the big movers, MCI Communications Corp. fell 6-1/8 to 30-9/16 in heavy trading after the company said it was in talks with British Telecom.

Telecommunications Plc about the terms of their \$28.7 billion merger deal and could not guarantee the outcome of the negotiations.

Investors were also preoccupied with a drop in bonds and renewed weakness in the dollar.

"It's no accident that as the dollar rallied over the past three

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. 34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem Tel: 02-624-4963 Fax: 02-625-9515

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WALL STREET REPORT Dow plummets 127 points after electrifying rally

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stocks backpedaled yesterday as investors banked some profits after lifting the Dow Jones industrial average more than 300 points higher over the last three days.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow ended down 127.28 points, or 1.5 percent, at 7,895.95.

Wall Street was also nervous heading into today's session, which has tended to bring big losses recently.



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**Brain - Emotional First Aid** - 1201, also Jerusalem 581-0303, Tel Aviv 646-1111 (children/youth 546-0739), Rishon LeZion 956-6661/2, Haifa 867-2222, Beersheva 649-4333, Netanya 862-6110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadera 634-6789.

**Rape Crisis Center** (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 04-9191 (men), Jerusalem 825-5558, Haifa 863-0633, Eilat 833-1977.

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**Kupat Holim Information Center** 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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## NEWS

in brief

## Chazan wants IDF to halt AIDS testing

MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) is demanding that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai order that blood tests for AIDS detection not be taken from soldiers. She said the tests are carried out only on homosexuals, Ethiopians, drug users, and those with tattoos and are carried out without their consent or knowledge.

"By defining certain target groups for AIDS tests, the IDF is acting irresponsibly and branding these soldiers, and it is opening the front door to the racist genie and the fear and hatred of the different," Chazan said.

Liat Collins

## Matza to mediate rift for MDA, fund-raisers

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza will spend three days in the US next week to try to resolve an ongoing dispute between American Red Magen David for Israel and Magen David Adom management in Tel Aviv.

The dispute has caused delays in the transfer of funds from the American friends' organization, including \$3.2 million promised for a communications system and \$850,000 for a computer system in the blood bank.

ARMAD donations have dropped from \$2 million four years ago to less than \$500,000 today, but the donation of 60 to 70 new ambulances a year continues.

The Health Ministry did not disclose the cause of the dispute between the fund-raisers and MDA officials.

Judy Siegel

## Bezeq cuts rates on calls to US

Bezeq International has cut its overseas dialing rates to four countries, including the US, effective today, with permission from the Communications Ministry. This, says BI, makes its charges for calls to the US the cheapest in the market: 61 agorot plus VAT per minute.

The cuts were made possible because BI's share of the market has fallen below 70% over the past 28 days, thus the ministry has reduced its control of rates.

The new rates to France and Holland are 84 agorot and to Morocco NIS 1.07 (all plus VAT, per minute). These cheaper rates are for those who register with BI.

Judy Siegel

## Two arrested in robbery-shooting

Two men were arrested yesterday for the armed robbery and shooting of the manager of a Tel Aviv employment agency earlier in the day. As the manager left the agency, on Rehov Dizengoff, for the bank, carrying a suitcase containing \$20,000 in cash, two men pulled up on a motorcycle and demanded the bag. When he refused to give it to them, one shot him in the leg, lightly wounding him. They then took the money and fled.

Police traced the two to a Jaffa house and arrested them, recovering the suitcase, the money, and the victim's wallet. The two face a remand hearing today.

Itim

## Cabinet OKs 'security basket' for taxi drivers

The cabinet yesterday authorized Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy to determine priorities for a "security basket" to protect taxi drivers, and asked him and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to come up with funding for the program within 30 days.

Among the suggestions for the basket are installing a satellite-based system that would help locate drivers during times of distress; installing a transparent divider between the driver and passenger seats; conducting courses for drivers on how to respond if they are threatened; and issuing pistols to drivers.

Jerusalem Post Staff

## Soldier stable after spider bite

By JUDY SIEGEL

A 21-year-old soldier bitten in his sleep Wednesday night by a black widow spider was in stable condition yesterday after suffering a severe reaction to the venom.

Doctors at Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed said they used various medications to relieve the symptoms, claiming that they could not locate antivenin for black widow venom.

Health Ministry associate director-general Dr. Boaz Lev said, however, there is an adequate supply of antivenin for black widow venom in the emergency storehouse of the health ministry in Tel Aviv, and in this case its use was not necessary.

Dr. Yosef Ezri, head of the respiratory intensive care unit at Rebecca Sieff hospital, noted that antivenin is in any case not recommended in the treatment of most black widow bites, as it can cause anaphylactic shock in some victims. Thus the antivenin should be used only for youngsters under the age of 16, old people, patients with chronic illnesses and others with very serious reactions.

The soldier, who lives in the center of the country, was sleeping in an army tent on the Golan Heights when he awoke to the feeling of a needle prick. When he looked at his jaw, he saw a red spot with a white halo around it; within half an hour, he felt severe stomach and muscle pains, contractions of his back muscles, pain in his knees and weakness.

Emergency room and intensive care unit doctors who diagnosed the cause said such bites are very rare and that they had never seen such a serious reaction to a black widow bite. They gave him Valium and drugs against pain.

He was fully conscious yesterday, but was still suffering from heavy sweating and rapid changes in blood pressure. These after-effects could continue for as long as a week, said Ezri, but death from black widow bites is rare.

## High Court gives go-ahead to Siso

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Shmuel Siso will take up the post of consul-general in New York next week, after the High Court of Justice yesterday turned down a petition challenging his qualifications.

Justices Shlomo Levine, Theodor Orr, and Dalia Dornier rejected the petition by the Movement for Quality Government outright and ruled there were insufficient grounds for court intervention.

"I am very relieved. The petition was based on rumors and justice has been done. I shall prove to all my opponents how well I can represent the state as consul-general," Siso said in response.

The petition argued that Siso, until now mayor of

Kiryat Yam, "did not have the relevant qualifications and experience for the position, one of the most important and sensitive in the foreign service." It alleged that Siso's appointment was political and that Foreign Minister David Levy was beholden to Siso for helping his Geshet Party in the 1996 election campaign.

Also noted in the appeal was that the Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander had questioned the administrative procedure involved in Siso's appointment.

The justices ruled that it is not the court's duty to intervene in political appointments unless corruption is involved. They said that movement members should have expressed their feelings on the op-ed page of a newspaper rather than in court.

## SISO

Continued from Page 12

Siso has met with UN Ambassador Dore Gold, and hopes the two can cooperate, each within his own area of authority. In the past there have been periodic tensions between the UN ambassador and the New York consul-general.

"We are in the middle of the peace process," he says. "This is not a business argument or a dispute with neighbors at home. It's an historic dispute and as such it will not be solved overnight. There are ups and downs. Right now we seem to be in a 'down' but we must pray that an 'up' follows. Crises and achievements can both be expected."

Siso had praise for his predecessor Avital, who was appointed by the previous Labor government. He said that she represented Israel well. "I hope that I will also represent Israel well - in all its variety," he said.

Siso has to resign as mayor to take up the consul post, but said he hopes to return to Kiryat Yam when his term in New York is up.

Apart from his former law practice he is also a board member of several concerns including Amigur, the public housing company.

"I'm not the type of person who lives just for politics. I ran for mayor because I grew up on

## SISO

Continued from Page 12

the mistakes made in the absorption of immigrants during my parents' time and I am grateful for the chance to do it differently," Siso said.

Siso says he hopes to prove himself at his new job despite the hurtful criticism of his English skills. He writes off the criticism as motivated mainly by jealousy.

"These attacks, as I said, come from irrelevant considerations. Perhaps there are those who think that if I don't go, they will go in my place," he said.

In New York, said Siso, "I will be able to represent the State of Israel in the best possible way. I know that in the US, people are judged by their achievements."

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said the closure could be eased, while at the same time the free access granted Palestinian VIPs, whom he described as "high-rollers and bar flies who suck the juice of the Palestinian people," could be canceled. Sharon contended that the freedom of movement gives these individuals "a gesture" and is not obligatory under the Oslo Accords.

"That kind of action would have much more influence than a closure, which helps Arafat engage in anti-Israel propaganda," he said.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza said it is impossible to reconcile oneself with Arafat's statements in which he grants recognition to Hamas and justifies terrorism.

"Instead of his complying with the demand that he fight terrorism, the very opposite is taking place," Matza said. "Hamas is burning Israeli flags and engaging in incitement with Arafat's support."

## BARAK

Continued from Page 1

The Histadrut also said it would seek a court injunction against the party, and accused Barak of planning to hire staff of his own choice and have them sign personal contracts.

Katz scoffed at Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, who "cannot understand" what the strike is about.

"Neeman is all set. He has a budgetary version [senior officials get their pension from the state budget, without having to pay part of their wages for it all

their life]. Moreover, his wages are updated every few months by dozens of percent," he said.

The Histadrut has not yet decided whether to strike the whole economy at the beginning of September, or to strike separately in each sector, then escalate to a general strike.

The leaders of the large unions urged a nationwide strike, including mass demonstrations and roadblocks, which

would paralyze the entire economy for weeks on end.

Earlier this week, the Histadrut sent out more than 100 notices to employers in the public and business sector, warning of the expected general strike. The strike notices were also sent to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the entire cabinet and the directors-general of all the ministries.



Netanyahu and 'The Nanny'

American television actress Fran Drescher, star of "The Nanny," chats with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara at the Knesset last night. She attended a Knesset ceremony celebrating 100 years since the founding of modern Zionism. The festivities were sponsored by the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jerusalem Fund of Aish HaTorah.

(Brian Hender)

## Wiesenthal Center seeks war trial

Office wants alleged Nazi Konrad Kalejs extradited from Australia

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and news agencies

The Simon Wiesenthal Center's Israeli Office called on Latvia yesterday to seek the extradition of Konrad Kalejs from Australia for alleged Nazi war crimes.

Kalejs, 84, returned to Australia on Wednesday after being deported from Canada two days earlier. As an alleged officer with the notorious Arajis Kommando in Latvia, Kalejs is accused of involvement in the murders of tens of thousands of Jews during World War II.

Efraim Zuroff, director of the Wiesenthal Center's Israeli Office, said he wrote a letter to Latvia's Ambassador to Israel, Ivars Silars, asking Latvia to try Kalejs.

"He committed most of his crimes in Latvia," Zuroff wrote. "We believe that such a trial, if held in Latvia, would be of unique historical and moral significance

for the Latvian people and contemporary Latvian society."

Zuroff hopes Latvia could "provide the documents and witnesses that have so far eluded the Australian authorities."

An official at the Latvian embassy said yesterday that the request was submitted to Latvia's foreign ministry.

If Latvia tried to have Kalejs extradited, they may have a problem because Australian law wouldn't permit his deportation, even if he were convicted in Australia of war crimes. Australia's Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock said.

Zuroff urged Australia earlier this week to try Kalejs. The country's attorney general promised to investigate.

The head of Australia's now defunct war crimes investigations unit accused the government of being too slow to act

against Kalejs.

"I feel disappointed that Australia, my country, has put itself in this position where it can legitimately be criticized by the international community," said Bob Greenwood, former head of Australia's Special Investigations Unit.

Greenwood said that he warned the government in 1992 that Kalejs, an Australian citizen, was bound to return, and that "they would have to be ready to act, otherwise the country could easily become something of an international laughing stock."

"What the Australian Federal Police should by now be in a position to do is to take immediate action either to interview and possibly charge Kalejs, or inform Kalejs their investigation is such that they won't be charging him under the War Crimes Act," Greenwood said.

Australia shut its Special Investigations

Unit in 1992 after three failed prosecutions and ones that it was wasting millions of dollars in taxpayers' money.

Former Nazi war crimes investigator Graham Blewitt, now deputy prosecutor of the war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, said it was unlikely Kalejs would ever be prosecuted.

Blewitt told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio that investigators never found enough evidence to prosecute Kalejs.

"We reached the stage that there was insufficient evidence to bring a prosecution under the fairly high standard required to convict someone in the Australian courts, namely you needed to establish his guilt beyond reasonable doubt."

Blewitt also said he did not believe the present government would be happy to open up the issue of war crimes again.



Kahalani chats with Russia's premier

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin (right) gestures as he chats with Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani in Moscow yesterday. Meanwhile, Asst. Cmdr. Meir Glibson, who heads the investigation into the Zvi Ben-Ari case and who accompanied Kahalani to Russia, said that he expected Russian authorities would provide evidence regarding Ben-Ari's alleged involvement in murder.

(Ronen)

## PM

Continued from Page 1

He cited the freezing of funds owed the PA, denying workers access to places of employment, and banning staples from reaching consumers in Gaza.

Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh assailed Arafat for initiating the "national unity" talks, saying he is "two-faced."

"On the one hand, he says he is against terrorism, and afterwards he runs to hug the killers of women and children," Naveh said.

Referring to Arafat's show of cordiality and affection toward Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders, Naveh said: "If he is truly a partner in peace, the way he claims he is, he must fight these organizations and certainly not embrace them."

An independent Palestinian analyst described Arafat's bid for rap-

prochement with the Islamic fundamentalists as a political error. He contended that national unity that included Hamas and Islamic Jihad could only rebound against him.

"It was a mistake for him to have hugged Hamas's Abdul-Azziz Rantisi and Islamic Jihad's Sheikh Nafez Azzam," he said, noting that the Israeli public could not be expected to understand this kind of "Arab mentality."

The analyst also said rank-and-file Palestinians are infuriated at Arafat for "engaging in ceremonies" when they are waiting for changes in his "corrupt administration."

At the cabinet meeting, Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilnai and OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon reported on the situation in southern Lebanon and recent negotiations with the PA. The discussion was officially described as a follow up to the security cabinet's prior deliberations.



# Bruck, Orbach set national swim marks

At the other end leg-spinner Shane Warne was producing

It was once again a most disastrous batting performance by England, whose reshuffled batting lineup for the second time in successive Tests did more harm than good.

M. Ellison b Turfnell	12
M. Taylor c Hickinson b Turfnell	38
G. Blewett not out	10
M. Waugh not out	13
Extras (lb-1 w-1 pb-2)	.4
Total (for two wickets)	77
Fall of wickets: 1-49 2-54	
To bat: S. Waugh, R. Ponting, I. Henry, S. Yoonis	

Bowling (to date): Malcolm 4-1-20-0, Martin 8-2-26-0, Caddick 6-1-24-0, Tufnell 7-1-5-6-2

Australia first innings	
M. Elliott b Tuffnell	12
M. Taylor c Hoddinot b Tuffnell	38
G. Blewett not out	10
M. Waugh not out	13
Extras (lb-1 w-1 pb-2)	4
Total (for two wickets)	77

**DISMISSED - Australia's Glenn McGrath celebrates dismissing England captain Mike Atherton for 8 runs during yesterday's 6th Test.**

The tournament ends on Sunday when Bruck, Orbach, Halika and Meiri fly, and Garmia, Sidi and free) and Orbach (100m back) in competition tomorrow.

In the men's 100m free, defending Olympic and European champion Alexander Popov of Russia won in 49.09, the fastest time in the world this year - topping Michael Kilm who had swum 49.15 two weeks ago.

**Cardinals 6, Expos 3**  
**Brian Jordan doubled off Steve**

1. Notary Public

**Red Sox 5, Athletics 4 (2nd, 13)**  
Mo Vaughn hit a tying, two-run

**Premier League:** Blackburn v Everton vs. Westham (All games

Philadelphia and Los Angeles at New York Mets, were postponed because of rain.

**Betar Tel Aviv, in Bat Yam, 17:00.**  
**cabi Acre, Saturday, 17:00. Group**  
**ahnin, 17:00.**  
**Liverpool, Coventry vs. Bolton and**  
**(Saturday)**  
*Ammanjah De Vries*

Disney, conscious of its image, has been under pressure since the Southern Baptist Convention voted in June to boycott the entertainment company, which owns 25 percent of the Angels.

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**Premier League:** Blackburn vs. Liverpool, Coventry vs. Bolton and Everton vs. Westham (All games Saturday)

AMERICAN LEAGUE		Minnesota	52	73	418	14
BATTING—	Thomas, Chicago, .347; Justice, Cleveland, .332; O'Neill, New York, .331; Ramirez, Cleveland, .329; MVAughn, Boston, .328; EMarinez, Seattle, .301; .331; WClair, Texas, .327.	West Division Seattle	70	56	556	—
RUNS—	Garciparra, Boston, 88; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 84; Jeter, New York, 82; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 82; EMarinez, Seattle, 88; BLHunter, Detroit, 88; ToClark, Detroit, 88.	Anaheim	69	54	543	1%
RBIs—	TMartinez, New York, 118; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 114; Salmon, Anaheim, 103; Thomas, Chicago, 100; JGonzalez, Texas, 100; O'Neill, New York, 99; ToClark, Detroit, 93.	Texas	60	67	472	10%
HITS—	Garciparra, Boston, 166; Greer, Texas, 153; Jeter, New York, 152; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 149; GAnderson, Anaheim, 147; IRodríguez, Texas, 147; Cora, Seattle, 146.	Oakland	50	77	394	20%
HOME RUNS—	Griffey Jr., Seattle, 40; TMartinez, New York, 39; McGwire, Oakland, 34; Thome, Cleveland, 33; JGonzalez, Texas, 30; Butner, Seattle, 30; ToClark, Detroit, 28; FThomas, Chicago, 28; RPAlmeida, Baltimore, 28.					
STOLEN BASES—	BLHunter, Detroit, 61; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 48; Nixon, Oakland, 47; TGoodwin, Texas, 40; Vizuqul, Cleveland, 34; Durham, Chicago, 29; Rodriguez, Seattle, 22.					
PITCHING (14 Decisions)—	Clemens, Toronto, 19-4, 828, 1.78; RAJohnson, Seattle, 17-4, 810, 2.32; Moyer, Seattle, 17-5, 750, 4.28; Erickson, Boston, 13-2, 397, 7.37; 3.35; Mussina, Baltimore, 15-7, 722, 3.19; Blair, Detroit, 13-5, 722, 3.97.	Wednesday's NL results: Colorado 5, Cincinnati 3; Pittsburgh 7, San Diego 3; St. Louis 6, Montreal 3; Florida 6, Chicago 5; Atlanta 3, Houston 1; San Francisco at Philadelphia, ppd., rain; Los Angeles at NY, ppd., rain.				
STRUCK OUTS—	RAJohnson, Seattle, 264; Clemens, Toronto, 226; Cora, New York, 215; Mussina, Baltimore, 167; CPinley, Anaheim, 155; Apple, Kansas City, 152; Fassero, Seattle, 149.	Wednesday's AL results: Minnesota 11, Detroit 1; Boston 4, Oakland 5 (1st); Boston 5, Oakland 2 (2nd); NY Yankees 3 (1st); NY Yankees 5 (2nd); Anaheim 3 (1st); Kansas City 2; Chicago 12; Toronto 6; Milwaukee 6; Texas 2; Seattle 1; Cleveland 0.				
SAVES—	Milwaver, New York, 39; RAymers, Baltimore, 37; RHernandez, Chicago, 27; Weteland, Texas, 27; DoJones, Milwaukee, 27; ToJones, Seattle, 23; Taylor, Oakland, 21.					

**Wednesday's NL results:** Colorado 5, Cincinnati 3; Pittsburgh 7, San Diego 3; St. Louis 6, Montreal 3; Florida 6, Chicago 5; Atlanta 3, Houston 1; San Francisco at Philadelphia, p.p.d., rain; Los Angeles at NY, p.p.d., rain.

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Minnesota 11, Detroit 1; Boston 7,  
Oakland 5 (1st); Boston 5, Oakland 4  
(2nd, 13); NY 7, Anaheim 3 (1st); NY  
8, Anaheim 5 (2nd); Baltimore 4,  
Kansas City 2; Chicago 12, Toronto 6;  
Milwaukee 6, Texas 2; Seattle 1,  
Cleveland 0.

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(2nd, 13); NY 7, Anaheim 3 (1st); NY  
8, Anaheim 5 (2nd); Baltimore 4,  
Kansas City 2; Chicago 12, Toronto 6;  
Milwaukee 6, Texas 2; Seattle 1,  
Cleveland 0.



# Hanegbi: Judges must be protected

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi came out yesterday in favor of administrative detentions if they are necessary to protect the lives of judges.

"The division in charge of security of judges in the Justice Ministry has been working harder than ever," Hanegbi told Israel Radio, noting that certain judges have been provided with bodyguards and that courtrooms are being protected.

"[Monday's] attack on the Petah Tikva courthouse is a low point which Israeli society had never reached before," he said. "The circumstances do not seem to indicate that this is an

individual criminal's act of revenge on someone, but rather a campaign against the entire legal system."

However, he refused to comment on who might have been involved.

Hanegbi said that "any tool that is necessary to help guard the judges is vital, because it also guards democracy."

He said he had heard media reports that the Internal Security Ministry is considering the use of administrative detentions.

"[Such detentions] have been in use for decades in this country. I do not want to express an opinion on them," Hanegbi said.

"But there is a threat here to human life and these judges are carrying out their public duty.

If they are hurt, we shall all be hurt. We cannot rule out any tool that helps guard them."

Reacting to Hanegbi's remarks, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel said that administrative detention is "a severe infringement of basic human rights. This is detention without trial and without the opportunity on the part of the detainee to react to the charges."

ACRI said it had recently appealed to Hanegbi about hundreds of such detentions. "The explosion at the courthouse was a serious crime and should be handled by the police with all the means at its disposal... so that the criminals can be brought to trial," ACRI said in a statement.

# Susskin released to house arrest

Tatiana Susskin, the woman accused of pasting up posters in Hebron depicting the Prophet Mohammed as a pig, was released from jail yesterday to house arrest, a court spokesman said.



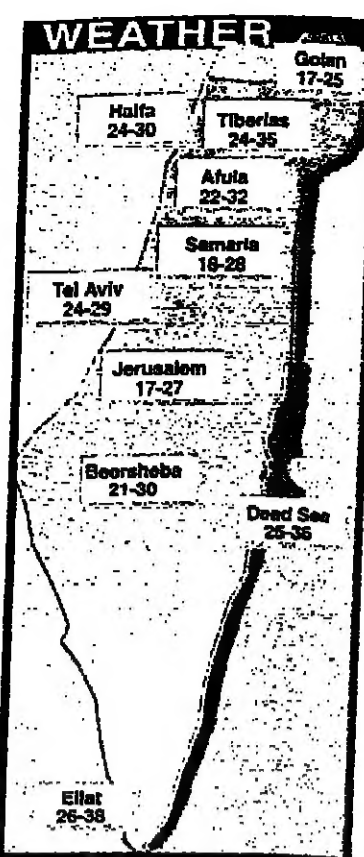
Tatiana Susskin (Brian Hendler)

The Jerusalem District Court handed Susskin, 26, over to an aunt in return for a \$14,200 guarantee that Susskin would remain at the aunt's house. The address wasn't revealed for the suspect's protection, court officials said.

"If there were an order to hang me, they would do it immediately. But to free me is a little hard for them in the meantime. The fact is that I am being released," Susskin told reporters after the decision. Russian-born Susskin received court permission on Wednesday to undergo tests by defense psychia-

trists over the next two weeks. Her lawyer Shmuel Casper said a previous examination had found that Susskin had a "psychiatric past" and "pathological problems on the day" she put up the posters, which was June 27.

Last week the court ruled Susskin was fit to stand trial after tests at a mental hospital. (Reuters)



## Rally with style

James Black (left) of Belfast, Northern Ireland, poses with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and his 1929 Rolls Royce in front of City Hall yesterday. Black arrived in the capital yesterday in his antique car, after making a 3,000 km. trip from Belfast via France, Italy, and Cyprus, where he and the car boarded a ferry to Israel. Black's car is one of 50 antique cars that are to participate in a London-to-Jerusalem rally next year, sponsored by the Jewish National Fund to mark the state's 50th anniversary. (Joe Malcolini)

## 'School year won't start without promised funds'

The school year will open only after the commitment to transfer "NIS 330 million to the education system is met, this along the arrangement set by the ministry, that is, additional funds for teaching hours which will be transferred directly to the ministry and will allow us to employ teachers, not students" for the long school day project, Education Ministry Director-General Ben Zion Delli said yesterday.

Speaking at a gathering of local authority education department heads in Netanya, he said the government has to keep its promises. "The education system has been preparing for 10 months for this addition. To unilaterally announce today, just over a week before school is supposed to open, that the Finance Ministry agrees to transfer only NIS 130m. out of the NIS 330m. promised means torpedoing the smooth opening of the school year," he said. Aryeh Dean Cohen

# Sallai Meridor to run for Jewish Agency chairman

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Sallai Meridor, head of the World Zionist Organization's Settlement Division and brother of Likud MK Dan Meridor, yesterday officially announced he would seek the Likud nomination to run for Jewish Agency and WZO chairman.

Meridor, 42, said he is not concerned about reports that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has already indicated a preference for Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal to oppose incumbent Avraham Burg.

"The Likud is a democratic party, and we'll have democratic elections to select our candidate," he said. "But if there is another candidate or candidates, we will go through the democratic process, hopefully in a friendly manner, and hopefully make the right and better choice."

Meridor denied his candidacy has anything to do with tensions between his brother and Netanyahu, saying: "The issues ahead of us are too important to allow personal things to take precedence."

Asked if he would step aside if Netanyahu asks him not to run, Meridor said: "I intend to run. I hope the prime minister will support my candidacy, and I believe that if elected, I will get the full cooperation of the prime minister and the government, because the cause is too important for any of us not to cooperate and work together."

Meridor, who is on both the Jewish Agency and WZO executives, said the agency is "a critical tool for maintaining the unity of the Jewish people, and it has an important role in projecting that unity to all Jews."

Meridor, who is leaving for the US on Sunday, said he would discuss the work of the Neeman Committee, which is trying to find a compromise on the conversion issue, with Jewish leaders there.

"I think that the Neeman Committee is doing very important work," he said. "From reports I hear, there is chance, although this is not yet a certainty but a good probability, that we are going to reach an understand-

ing which will add unity and peace among Jews. And I would definitely urge all Jews from the different streams to continue the discussions and accept the proposal, which apparently was a compromise suggested by Neeman."

Asked about recent criticism of the agency for bringing large numbers of non-Jewish immigrants into the country, Meridor said: "I think that we should understand that the reality of Jewish life today is that there are unfortunately high rates of intermarriage, and seeking to have large waves of immigration implies that we will have to deal with having their relatives in

Israel, who may not be Jewish when they enter."

"If we have to choose between leaving a Jew out of Israel with his non-Jewish relative, or bringing him in, I would unequivocally choose to bring the Jew in, with his relative."

Meridor added that he supports "accelerating the process of integrating those non-Jewish relatives into the Jewish people, bearing in mind that by the very fact of moving to Israel, desiring to belong to the Jewish people, speaking Hebrew, sending their children to Jewish schools, and serving in the IDF, they are taking significant steps toward being accepted into the Jewish people."

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